



09 MAR 2021

On 9 February 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982:

- *The updated figures regarding the public housing register breakdown. If possible, it'd be great to get the data back to September 2015, and monthly if possible – but quarterly would be OK if that's too difficult. I am after the breakdown of the priority A and B.*

The Public Housing Register (the Register) is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right number of bedrooms, is close to essential services such as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having the greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority on the Register may change also. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Nationally there is an issue of housing demand exceeding supply. More housing is needed to support the most vulnerable people in our community and the Government, through a number of agencies, is working to increase the amount of Public Housing.

All clients who approach the Ministry seeking Public Housing are offered other financial assistance where it is appropriate for their situation. This can include Accommodation Supplement for private rent, Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, or a Recoverable Assistance Payment Grant. Further information regarding available support can be accessed on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html.

The Register consists of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register represents those already in Public Housing who are eligible to be rehoused, generally due to a change in circumstances prompting a move to somewhere more appropriate to their needs.

There is a set of criteria used to determine the housing need of a household and is based on the household composition, housing circumstances and housing history. These criteria are grouped into five categories: adequacy, suitability, affordability and accessibility. To qualify for public housing, a client must be assessed as having an 'at risk' (Priority A) or 'serious' (Priority B) housing need.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need, housing need priority ratings and the calculation of overall priority ratings can be found on

the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html.

Please find **Table One** attached as an Excel spreadsheet, showing the data for primary applicants on the Public Housing Register, broken down by priority level and quarter end, for the period of 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2020.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the public housing waitlist, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Hocking
**General Manager
Housing**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'K. Hocking', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends downwards into a large loop.

Table One: Data on primary applicants on the Public Housing Register, broken down by priority level and quarter end, for the period of 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2020.**Notes:**

This data includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.

This data includes priority A and B applications. The priority A and B applications used in this table are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.

To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.

These data tables have had random rounding (to a multiple of three) applied to all cell counts in the table.

The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.

The published counts will never differ by more than 2 counts.

Quarter Ending	A20	A19	A18	A17	A16	A15	A14	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	B15	B14	B13	B12	B11	B10	B9	B8	Total
December 2015	0	0	0	6	18	78	252	456	654	669	468	198	0	0	27	165	351	510	501	270	4,617
March 2016	0	0	0	3	33	96	309	447	630	624	456	159	0	0	33	189	351	498	480	270	4,584
June 2016	0	0	0	6	30	123	369	576	738	684	447	165	0	0	36	201	396	522	474	243	5,013
September 2016	0	0	3	9	42	165	468	723	855	753	459	189	0	0	39	252	441	570	546	261	5,769
December 2016	0	3	9	45	99	219	480	822	912	738	441	186	0	0	45	252	432	609	531	282	6,111
March 2017	0	3	36	87	207	366	636	873	819	639	363	147	9	36	111	297	420	459	435	204	6,156
June 2017	0	6	33	87	183	387	663	930	915	717	429	180	9	42	108	303	498	579	483	219	6,774
September 2017	3	12	30	90	201	447	756	999	1,041	762	414	147	6	42	135	342	516	624	516	234	7,329
December 2017	3	9	45	141	279	537	879	1,089	1,107	804	420	180	9	36	132	291	486	558	495	231	7,725
March 2018	3	15	84	198	441	801	1,233	1,437	1,287	1,032	549	207	9	54	165	330	504	591	519	234	9,696
June 2018	3	21	54	195	375	729	1,167	1,572	1,518	1,122	654	222	12	60	165	420	636	765	609	288	10,587
September 2018	6	27	78	219	510	969	1,368	1,725	1,620	1,209	630	246	12	45	153	426	678	798	573	315	11,610
December 2018	9	45	132	315	669	1,311	1,683	1,998	1,710	1,245	609	225	12	60	180	441	720	792	627	303	13,086
March 2019	21	75	249	546	879	1,482	1,785	1,977	1,695	1,209	546	213	12	57	174	384	612	744	540	276	13,473
June 2019	42	108	330	687	1,143	1,809	2,160	2,133	1,860	1,224	609	213	12	69	198	381	552	684	459	213	14,892
September 2019	60	177	519	1,074	1,644	2,172	2,526	2,349	1,905	1,194	591	177	21	66	201	381	564	636	420	192	16,866
December 2019	72	249	585	1,257	2,058	2,409	2,598	2,397	1,881	1,188	552	177	18	72	222	402	600	642	417	204	17,997
March 2020	93	300	735	1,503	2,322	2,646	2,871	2,547	2,046	1,269	609	168	21	72	198	423	555	636	414	189	19,620
June 2020	102	357	891	1,803	2,733	3,243	3,339	2,784	2,172	1,269	612	189	18	78	180	405	522	618	396	174	21,879
September 2020	135	444	1,089	2,244	3,258	3,768	3,810	3,192	2,385	1,437	666	222	18	87	213	453	624	663	456	201	25,365
December 2020	168	522	1,200	2,511	3,513	3,990	3,963	3,318	2,442	1,425	675	222	24	75	213	444	648	678	492	222	26,748