



7 December 2022

Tēnā koe

On 10 November 2022, Kainga Ora transferred part of your request to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many households on the Buller waitlist month-on-month over the last five years?*
- *On average, how long are households on the waitlist before a home is available?*
- *On average, what percentage of these Buller households go into emergency accommodation while waiting for a KO home?*

The Ministry has interpreted the term "waitlist" from your request as the "Housing Register". The Ministry will now respond to your request in turn.

- *How many households on the Buller waitlist month-on-month over the last five years?*

The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Social Allocation System is the assessment and process by which people are eligible and matched to Public Housing.

Public houses are allocated on a needs basis, and not a 'first in, first served' basis. The length of time someone will be waiting for a house depends on their Priority Rating under the assessment, and the availability of a house that suits their needs in a location they are willing to live. The assessment looks at both an applicants need to move, and their ability to afford, access and sustain a private rental. If there are many barriers to them accessing a private rental, this will be reflected in a higher need rating.

Please see the attached spreadsheet containing **Table One** which outlines the number of primary applicants in the Buller District on the Housing Register from 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2022.

- *On average, how long are households on the waitlist before a home is available?*

There are a lot of factors that influence the time taken to be housed and impact this when looking at priority:

- The number of applications housed in the lower priorities is very small, but this means that the median calculation is more susceptible to be influenced by extreme time to house values; compared to the higher priorities where large numbers of applications are housed and the median is more stable.
- Fast tracks override a priority. If a B10 application has a fast track, they will be reported as being housed as a B10, but the fast track puts them to the top of the list leading to a quicker time to house. More information about fast tracked applications can be found here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/fast-track-provision.html>
- Other things that influence this would be:
 - location of the applicants,
 - available properties,
 - number of bedrooms required,
 - modification requirements,
 - level of client need.

Please see the attached spreadsheet containing **Table Two** which outlines the number housed and the average time to house in the Buller District from 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2022 broken down by month.

- *On average, what percentage of these Buller households go into emergency accommodation while waiting for a KO home?*

In order to provide you with this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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'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 Housing Register information for the Buller District, 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
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Housing