



8 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 30 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. I would like to request an update of the table that was previously provided under the Official Information Act 1982.*
- 2. Could you also provide an update on the number of applicants to the Housing Register, that were the same applicants from:
-September 2021 to December 2021 and
-December 2021 to March 2022 and
-June 2021 to March 2022?*
- 3. An update on the ethnicities for the December 2021 and March 2022 applicants?*
- 4. An update on the number of June and September applicants affiliated with Tairāwhiti Iwi?*
- 5. An update on the number of applicants that have dropped off the waiting list and returned over what period of time in the past year, and over the past 5 years?*
- 6. An update on the number of applicants that have dropped off the waiting list and not returned in the past year, and over the past 5 years?*

On 23 June 2022, the Ministry advised you that more time was required to make a decision on your request, and that a decision would be with you on or before 15 July 2022. The reason for the extension was that the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response to the request could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

For the sake of clarity, I will respond to your requests in turn.

1. *I would like to request an update of the table that was previously provided under the Official Information Act 1982*

Please see the enclosed Excel spreadsheet which contains:

- **Table One:** The number of primary applicants, adults and children included on the Public Housing Register in the Gisborne District Territorial Local Authority as at the end of each quarter for the period March 2021 to March 2022, by insecure housing (Y/N) and description

This table addresses your request for an update of the table that was previously provided to you under the Act.

2. *The number of applicants to the Housing Register, that were the same applicants from:*
 - September 2021 to December 2021 and
 - December 2021 to March 2022 and
 - June 2021 to March 2022?

The Ministry cannot ascertain if the people on the Public Housing Register for the latest two quarters are the same as those from your previous response without manually examining individual client files. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as it would require a substantial manual collation exercise. 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 request 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.

3. *An update on the ethnicities for the December 2021 and March 2022 applicants?*

Please see the enclosed Excel spreadsheet which contains:

- **Table Two:** The count of main applicants on the Public Housing Register in the Gisborne District Territorial Local Authority as at the end of each quarter in the period March 2021 to March 2022, broken down by selected ethnic group and quarter end

Please note that the categories in this table may differ from those previously released to you under the Act. From December 2021, the Ministry changed its ethnicity reporting to an approach called 'total response'. Making this change means recognising all aspects of someone's ethnicity. This change reflects our clients more accurately, aligns our approach with Statistics New Zealand's reporting and reflects best practice. Ethnicity is about people's identity and sense of belonging, measuring cultural affiliation rather than race, ancestry, nationality, or citizenship. Ethnicity is self-perceived, and people can identify with more than one ethnic group. For more information about 'total response' for ethnicity reporting, please see the following link:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/tools/how-we-report-ethnicity

4. *An update on the number of June and September applicants affiliated with Tairāwhiti Iwi?*

Please see the enclosed Excel spreadsheet which contains:

- **Table Three:** The count of main applicants on the Public Housing Register in the Gisborne District Territorial Local Authority as at the end of each quarter in the period March 2021 to March 2022, broken down by selected Iwi group and quarter end

- 5. *An update on the number of applicants that have dropped off the waiting list and returned over what period of time in the past year, and over the past 5 years?*
- 6. *An update on the number of applicants that have dropped off the waiting list and not returned in the past year, and over the past 5 years?*

In responding to your previous request for this information under the Act, the Ministry advised you that once applications for the Public Housing Register are lodged in the Ministry system they do not expire. Therefore, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

However, in the spirit of being helpful, the Ministry provided you with a table showing the number of application exits from the Public Housing Register in the Gisborne District TLA between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021, broken down by reason for exit.

Please see the enclosed Excel spreadsheet which contains the following updated table:

- **Table Four:** The number of application exits from the Public Housing Register in the Gisborne District Territorial Local Authority between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2022, by year and reason for exit

The principles and purposes of the Act 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
- 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 Register in Tairāwhiti, 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**
