



30 June 2022

Tēnā koe

On 31 May 2022, your request was transferred in part from the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Statistics of those that identify as gay, lesbian, transgendered, Pansexual, Bisexual users of MSD, Homeless [...].*
- *Maori and Non-Maori*

The Ministry does not record the sexual identity of its clients. As such, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The Ministry has interpreted your request for homelessness statistics as the number of clients in insecure housing. When assessing clients' housing needs, the Ministry notes the nature of the accommodation the client is residing in when they apply to be on the Public Housing Register. The two housing types are classified as 'secure' or 'insecure' housing. For example, a client may be in secure housing if they reside in a private rental when they apply for Public Housing, however, if they are in a motel when they apply, they may be in insecure housing. This housing status is updated by case managers during a client's appointment.

In the spirit of being helpful, please find **Table One** in the attached Excel spreadsheet, which details the accommodation types of primary applicants on the Public Housing Register as at 31 May 2022 broken down by ethnicity.

Please note that the Ministry only holds housing security information on clients who have applied for public housing. There may be individuals in insecure housing who have not applied for public housing which the provided information will not cover. As such, this cannot be considered a complete list.

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 regarding insecure housing, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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**