



27 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 27 February 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. As at 15 February or as of date of this request being actioned (whichever is easiest to collate) how many households were on your waiting list for homes in Kapiti?*
- 2. How many applicants have children in the household?*
- 3. What number of the applicants have dogs?*
- 4. How many of the applicants identify as female, how many as male and as any other sex/gender?*
- 5. Based on data from assessment interview forms and the single client management system how many of these applicants currently reside in Kapiti?*
- 6. Based on assessment info held how many of these applicants have accessibility issues shown by a checked box for having social dysfunction that is creating*
  - a. difficulty operating in the private sector,*
  - b. inability operating in the private sector*
  - c. total inability to operate in the private sector*
- 7. Based again on data from current application assessment info that is held - how many applicants for Kapiti housing have got money management problems due to presence of addictions.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

When New Zealanders need Public Housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The Housing Register

shows people who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been accessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in Public Housing who have applied to be rehoused. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register). While the Ministry completes housing assessments which inform the Register, responsibility for funding and supply of Public Housing sits with the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora, respectively.

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 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.

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](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html).

For the sake of clarity, I will respond to your questions in the following order.

- 1. As at 15 February or as of date of this request being actioned (whichever is easiest to collate) how many households were on your waiting list for homes in Kapiti?*

The Ministry has interpreted this request to be for the number of applicants on the Register who have chosen letting areas in Kāpiti as their preferred areas to be housed in.

Please refer to **Table Four** in the **Appendix** for the number of applications on the Register with chosen letting areas in Kāpiti postcodes as at 28 February 2023.

- 5. Based on data from assessment interview forms and the single client management system how many of these applicants currently reside in Kapiti?*

As at 28 February 2023, there were 186 applicants on the Register, residing in the Kāpiti Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

TLA is estimated based on the main applicant's residential address as at 28 February 2023.

- 2. How many applicants have children in the household?*

Please refer to **Table One** in the **Appendix** for the number of applicants on the Register in Kāpiti TLA, broken down by whether they have any children in their application, as at 28 February 2023.

4. *How many of the applicants identify as female, how many as male and as any other sex/gender?*

Please refer to **Table Two** in the **Appendix** for the number of applicants on the Register in Kāpiti TLA, broken down by gender, as at 28 February 2023.

The Ministry is unable to provide you with the number of applicants who identify as any other sex/gender as this information is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. 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 change for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

3. *What number of the applicants have dogs?*
7. *Based again on data from current application assessment info that is held - how many applicants for Kapiti housing have got money management problems due to presence of addictions.*

I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. 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.

6. *Based on assessment info held how many of these applicants have accessibility issues shown by a checked box for having social dysfunction that is creating*
  - d. *difficulty operating in the private sector,*
  - e. *inability operating in the private sector*
  - f. *total inability to operate in the private sector*

Difficulties in social function and lack of social skills can make it difficult for people to sustain alternative housing. For example, a person may not be able to find a suitable property due to reasons such as:

- a lack of necessary confidence and skills
- a lack of knowledge, for example, they do not know who to approach to discuss their housing options
- they have only ever had a social housing provider as a landlord
- lack of confidence in the private sector or a distrust of private landlords

Tenants who have serious or severe and persistent level of social dysfunction requiring a high level of support will continue to qualify for social housing.

Please refer to **Table Three** in the **Appendix** for the number of applicants on the Register in Kāpiti TLA, broken down by sustain social problems indicator, as at 28 February 2023.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

PP. 

Karen Hocking  
**Group General Manager  
Housing**