



18 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 19 April 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I am working on a Plan Change application in Dargaville that involves rezoning rural zoned land to a mix of residential and light industrial. This is a community led proposal and includes providing for community housing to be established. The Hearing Commissioners have sought additional information on the demand for public housing in Dargaville.*

*I have been looking at the information available on the HUD website regarding public housing. The tab on Public Housing Register provides an indication of the demand for public housing but does not appear to be available at a sub-Region level.*

*Is there data on the demand for Public Housing in urban Dargaville?*

At the suggestion of the Ministry, on 8 May 2023, you agreed to refine your request to the number of people that have been on a waiting list for public housing in Dargaville.

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 assessed 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).

**Table: The number of people on the Social Housing register that have selected letting areas in Dargaville as at 30 April 2023, by Dargaville postcodes**

<b>Postcodes</b>	<b>Applications</b>
0310	240
0371	237
0372	237
0373	237
0374	237
0377	237
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

Notes on the table:

This includes applications on both the Housing Register and Transfer Register.<sup>1</sup>

This includes priority A and B applications.<sup>2</sup>

An application can request multiple letting areas. Therefore the sum of applications in each letting area will not equal total distinct applications.

To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.

<sup>1</sup> The Transfer Register contains applicants already in public housing who need to be rehoused for reasons such as there being too few or too many bedrooms in their current public house, or for health reasons.

<sup>2</sup> Applicants assessed as Priority A are at-risk of having a serious housing need or have a serious housing need. Applicants assessed as Priority B are placed on the Register until a house becomes available.

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 two counts.

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 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 about the number of applications on the Social Housing Register specifying a Dargaville preference, 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



Karen Hocking  
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Housing**