



14 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 7 August 2023, Kāinga Ora partially transferred your request for information, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for the following information:

*I request access to the following information:*

- *The most recent information Kāinga Ora holds regarding the number of families and individuals on the waitlist for public housing in both Ohakune and in the wider Ruapehu District*

On 4 September 2023 the Ministry notified you that while we had decided to grant your request in part, further time was required to finalise the information to be released to you. Thank you for your patience while this has occurred.

Information regarding the number of families and individuals on the Housing Register is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry. In this circumstance, Kāinga Ora transferred this part of your request to the Ministry as required by section 14 of the Act. You will hear from Kāinga Ora regarding the other parts of your request.

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 sits with the Ministry of 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 also change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

The Ministry does not record the number of families on the Housing Register, but rather households, which are based off the number of primary applicants. This is because the adults involved in a single household may not be related to each other/consider themselves a family.

Please see the table below showing the number of primary applicants, adults and children on the Housing Register as at 30 June 2023 for the Ruapehu Territorial Local Authority.

<b>Number Primary Applicants</b>	<b>Number adults</b>	<b>Number Children</b>
69	72	72

**Notes:**

- This only includes Priority A and Priority B applications on the Housing Register.
- When an application for public housing is lodged, the details of each individual in the household are recorded.
- Households on the Public Housing Register are required to notify the Ministry of any change in circumstances, including household changes.
- This means that the Ministry can report on the number of children in households on the Public Housing Register.
- Households in this table include groups of over one person.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of each period.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- This data table has had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.

You can view more information, including Housing Register data for the last five years, at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html).

In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. As such, your request for the number of households or individuals on the waitlist in Ohakune is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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 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 regarding the waitlist for Public Housing in Ohakune and the Ruapehu 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Karen Hocking  
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Housing**