



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

20 September 2023

Tēnā koe

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

- *I'm making an Official Information Act request for the most recent figures in people in Social Housing, specifically the demographics of them, the demographics of those on the waitlist and the demographics for those relegated to the motels.*

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, which is 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 are in need of 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 but who have applied to be rehoused. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register).

While the Ministry completes the housing assessments which inform the Register, responsibility for funding and supply of housing sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Kainga Ora, respectively. More information about the Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html. HUD also publishes quarterly Housing Report: [Public housing quarterly reports - Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development \(hud.govt.nz\)](http://www.hud.govt.nz/publications-resources/quarterly-reports)

Each housing application is given a priority rating based on the Ministry's assessment of housing need, and all applications are measured against the same criteria to determine that priority rating. Applicants who are assessed as at risk (Priority A) or as having a serious housing need (Priority B) are placed

on the Register until a house becomes available. The Ministry's role is to assess people's needs for Public Housing and if they or a family member need an accessible home, this is captured as part of the assessment process.

The Ministry assesses the client's need for Public Housing through the Social Allocation System (SAS). The SAS assessment covers five criteria: adequacy, suitability, affordability, accessibility, and sustainability. Each category has a rating from one to four with four being the highest level of risk. The rating across these five criteria makes up a priority rating of up to 20. You can find more information regarding the SAS assessment criteria at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html.

Clients who approach the Ministry seeking Public Housing are offered other assistance appropriate to their situation. This can include support to secure private rentals including rent and bond, Accommodation Supplement or Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG), for emergency housing.

EH SNGs are available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependant on individual circumstances.

The Ministry provides ongoing support to help people secure a long-term housing solution, including looking into public housing and private rental accommodation as an option, depending on the individual's circumstances. EH SNGs are short-term in nature. The policy is aimed at encouraging clients to continue to search for their own accommodation options.

Public (Kainga Ora) and Community Housing Providers (CHP's) are responsible for matching those on the Public Housing Register with available properties. They have discretion to select the household they believe will fit best with that property based on a number of factors.

Because there is a shortage of appropriate public houses available to match people's individual needs, households with a high housing need will not always necessarily be placed before other households with lower priority ratings. Often the factors that cause a household to be in high housing need will be the very factors that work against it in the selection and placement process. For example, a large family that requires a modified house in an area where there are few public houses available would have more difficulty being placed than a household with a lower priority rating in an area with greater supply of public houses.

As such, the Ministry has interpreted your request for the latest data on the number of current tenancies broken down by housing region by age, gender and ethnicity.

Please see attached the following five tables the enclosed **Appendix**:

- **Table One** the number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by housing region.
- **Table Two** the number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by age.
- **Table Three** the number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by gender.
- **Table Four** the number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by total response ethnicity.

You may also find helpful the data that the Ministry publishes online regarding the Housing Register, at the following link: [view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.msd.govt.nz%2Fdocuments%2Fabout-msd-and-our-work%2Fpublications-resources%2Fstatistics%2Fhousing%2F2023%2Fhousing-register-june-2023.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/2023/housing-register-june-2023.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

The Ministry also publishes data regarding Emergency Housing data at the following link: [view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.msd.govt.nz%2Fdocuments%2Fabout-msd-and-our-work%2Fpublications-resources%2Fstatistics%2Fhousing%2Fdatafiles%2F2023%2Fjul%2Feh-national-monthly-timeseries-datafile-july-2023.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/datafiles/2023/jul%2Feh-national-monthly-timeseries-datafile-july-2023.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Social Housing register, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Hocking', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**

APPENDIX

Table 1: The number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by Housing Region

Notes:

This includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies

Housing Region is based on the tenancy address and grouped according to the HUD. These regions have different geographic boundaries to the Ministry's Regions and are not comparable between them.

Unknown/Other Housing Regions are Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a Region.

There is sometimes a delay in tenancy information reaching the Ministry and as such tenancy numbers may not align with HNZ and CHP tenancy numbers at a point in time.

To protect confidentiality the Ministry 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.

A value of one or two will always be rounded to three.

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.

Housing Region	Auckland	Bay of Plenty	Canterbury	Central	East Coast	Northland	Southern	Taranaki	Waikato	Wellington	West Coast/Tasman	Unknown/Other	Total
31 July 2023	35,598	3,345	9,060	2,370	4,188	2,274	1,860	1,224	69	4,908	8,799	1,611	75,306

Table 2: The number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by Age

Notes:

This includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies.

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Age Group	24 years and under	25-39 years	40-54 years	55-60 years	65 years +	Total
31 July 2023	1,518	17,421	22,215	16,332	17,823	75,306

Table 3: The number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by Gender

Notes:

This includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies.

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These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.

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Gender	Male	Female	Gender Diverse	Total
31 July 2023	23,319	51,927	63	75,306

Table 4: The number of current tenancies as at 31 July 2023, broken down by Total Response Ethnicity

Notes:

This includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies.

Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept.

Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group.

Because a client can choose more than one ethnic response, the total number of ethnic responses will be greater than the number of clients.

MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African.

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These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.

A value of one or two will always be rounded to three.

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The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

Total Response Ethnicity	Māori	European	Pacific Peoples	Asian	MELAA	Other	Unknown	Distinct Clients
31 July 2023	28,728	24,942	19,653	4,002	2,532	2,688	1,542	75,306