



8 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2024, requesting information about motels used for Emergency Housing in Rotorua and public housing for people aged over 65 as at 31 December 2023.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

I have also included some general information about Public Housing at the end of this letter, for your information.

Emergency Housing Motels Rotorua

As of December 31, 2023 - How many motels in Rotorua does MSD own to be used for Housing NZ purposes?

The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) does not own motels for Emergency Housing or Public Housing use.

As of December 31, 2023 - How many motel rooms in Rotorua are occupied as an emergency housing measure?

Your request for this information is refused under Section 18(g) of the Act as the Ministry does not track the number of motel rooms used and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

However, I refer you to the following link to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website which supplies the Rotorua Emergency Housing Report, December 2023.

- [Rotorua Temporary Housing Dashboard, December 2023](#)

You will note that as at 31 December 2023, seven motels were in use for Emergency Housing and that 54 households were in Emergency Housing.

In addition, you may be interested in the following link to the Ministry website page where Emergency Housing data is available:

- [Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant.](#)

Public Housing over 65s

As of December 31, 2023 - How many over 65 year-olds are in public housing provided by MSD?

Please note that the Ministry does not provide public housing accommodation. However, I can advise that the number of Public Housing tenancies for clients aged 65 and over, as at 31 December 2023, is 18,255. This includes both Housing New Zealand and Community Housing Provider tenancies.

As of December 31, 2023 - What is the average monthly rent for an over 65 year-old in MSD public housing?

The information you are requesting is not held by the Ministry and would need to be created. The Ministry does not provide public housing accommodation and in order to provide a monthly average rent for an over-65 the Ministry would need to make a distinction as to whether a tenancy is being charged market rent or is being subsidised and take into account household size and whether the over-65 is the primary tenant. For example, there may be instances where an over-65 is in a tenancy under someone else (potentially non-qualified spouses for example).

In addition, manual collation would be required to ensure that data for household size is reliable.

As such, I am refusing this request under section 18(g) of the Act, because the Ministry does not hold any official information in scope of this aspect of your request and I have no grounds to believe that this information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

However I can advise the weekly rent for Public Housing is calculated at 25% of the household's total income. More information about Public Housing rental charges can found here:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/live-in-home/live-in-public-housing/calculating-rent-payments.html

General information about Public Housing

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have responsibility/oversight for the planning related to public housing stock.

Kāinga Ora are the primary supplier of public housing, though Community Housing Providers (CHPs) also play a role. An applicant could be matched on the register to either Kāinga Ora or a CHP. If a property was most suitable to a certain cohort (e.g. housing for elderly), the property will be listed in the system with those factors indicated, and a client who does not fit that property will not be matched to it.

Staff endeavour to have useful conversations with applicants about where the public housing stock is, so they can set realistic expectations for themselves about where they may need to live. This information may help an applicant understand how long it may take to be housed, if there is little or no availability in a region.

The Ministry's information about where state housing exists has not been updated since 2016. However, Kāinga Ora do publish information about housing stock on their website:

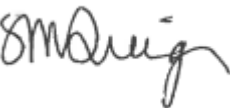
- [Kāinga Ora Housing Statistics Archive](#)

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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.

Yours sincerely

pp. 

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