



6 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 5 April 2024, requesting information about Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EN SNGs), Public Housing Register and duration of applicants on the Housing Register.

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

I refer you to the **Appendix** enclosed with this letter which outlines the data we are providing to you, in table format, in the specified spreadsheets provided as appendices 1-3, in response to your request.

Please note, the Ministry does not record the longest duration of an applicant on the Housing Register. However, in the interests of providing you with the most useful information, I am providing you with the number of clients housed and the time to house from the Public Housing Register.

The length of time an application remains on the Register can be dependent on a number of reasons. For example, an applicant may remain on the Register for a longer period of time where they have specific preferences or requirements about where they need to be housed, have a change in circumstances while they are on the Register, or seek housing in areas which have high demand.

In regard to your request for the age of children in Emergency Housing and on the Public Housing Register, as well as information on the number of moves/accommodation provider changes and non-consecutive EH SNG grants for the same household, 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.

Please also note, in order to protect client privacy, some values in the attached data tables are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the information.

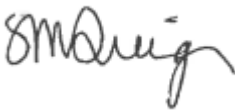
I have also included, as **Appendix Two**, a copy of your original request for information.

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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix

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Appendix 2 – Copy of your original request for information

Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA) / Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)]:

Regarding the Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) data

For each of the following cohorts:

- Applicants over the age of 55
- Applicants over the age of 65
- All applicants with children
- Applicants over the age of 55 with children
- Single adult applicants with children
- Single adults where the applicant is over 55
- Single applicants where the applicant is over 65

Please provide the following data:

- Households by region on EH SNG (Graph 3 on the monthly report)
- Households by duration on EH SNG (Graph 4 on the monthly report)
- Ethnicity of lead applicant
- Gender of lead applicant

Regarding the Public Housing Register

For each of the following cohorts:

- Applicants over the age of 55
- Applicants over the age of 65
- All applicants with children
- Applicants over the age of 55 with children
- Single adult applicants with children
- Single adults where the applicant is over 55
- Single applicants where the applicant is over 65

Please provide the following data:

- Number of Applicants (graph 8 on the monthly report)
- Priority on the Housing Register (graph 9 on the monthly report)
- Ethnicity of lead applicant (graph 12 on the monthly report)
- Duration on the Housing Register
- Gender of lead applicant

For datasets above that involve children, can these also be replied to indicating the number of children per applicant (1, 2, 3, 4+)

For datasets above that involve children, can these also be replied to indicating the age of children in the applications (0-2, 3-4, 5-12, 13-17)

Can you please provide information regarding the longest duration on the Housing Register for an applicant with children

Can you please provide information regarding the longest duration on the Housing Register for an applicant over the age of 55 and over the age of 65

Can you confirm if you record the number of moves/accommodation provider changes that a recipient may experience while receiving EH SNG

Can you provide insight on the amount of data capture regarding non-consecutive EH SNGs that encompass the same household, especially those with children.