



17 October 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act Request**

Thank you for your email of 1 October 2024, requesting data about the number of Housing Register applicants living in a car at the time of their application, from 2019 to present.

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

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** for a yearly summary of the number of Housing Register applicants who were living in a car at the time of their application from 2019 until 30 September 2024.

The Ministry is responsible for the payment of housing-related financial assistance, assessment of eligibility for social housing and management of the social housing register.

When an applicant completes a Social Housing Register application, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) records the living situation of the primary applicant at the time they apply. If someone tells the Ministry they are living in a car, we record that in their application and then consider what assistance we can provide. That may be help sourcing private housing, a referral to a transitional housing provider or assistance in meeting the cost of emergency housing.

While this is part of the picture, the social housing register only captures moment in time information about those who have come forward for assistance, so it is not an exact count of the number of people living in their cars at any one time.

Information is updated when the Ministry is made aware of a change in circumstances. The applicant's type of accommodation is based on the data held at the date of reporting.

Further reporting on the social housing register can be found here:

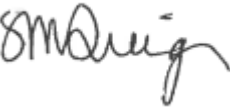
<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/monthly-housing-reporting.html>

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request for data on the number of Housing Register applicants that were living in a car at the time of their application, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**