



24 April 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 25 March 2025, requesting information about the Public 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.

- *Can you please provide me details and definitions of public housing register exits,*

General information on the Public Housing Register is available on the Ministry's Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/register-management-and-referrals/introduction.html.

I recommend you also visit the links provided below, as they contain information related to when clients are removed from the register, such as when clients cannot be contacted, or they make contact after 8 weeks.

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/register-management-and-referrals/reviewing-clients-on-the-register.html.
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/register-management-and-referrals/removal-from-the-register-01.html.

- *Numbers or details of register exits that have been housed and if not housed what information do you have of their exit from the register.*
- *Furthermore can I please have the register exits organised by ethnicity.*

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which contains that information you have requested.

- *And finally any changes made over the last 3 years of eligibility changes and changes made to priority A and B and the reasons for those changes.*

The following changes have been made or may have an effect to Social Housing (SH) eligibility, register criteria, or priority ratings between 25 March 2022 – 25 March 2025:

1. Income limit increasing - The income limit for SH is set relative to 1.5x the households most appropriate weekly New Zealand Superannuation rate. As

the New Zealand Superannuation rate is adjusted yearly in the Annual General Adjustment (AGA) in consideration of wages and CPI, the income limit for SH is also automatically adjusted. AGA changes occur on 1 April every year.

If you would like to read more about AGA, you can find the most recent AGA documents at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2024/annual-general-adjustment-2024.html.

2. Child Support - On 22 August 2023, Child support payments were included assessable income for SH. Information on this change, including relevant legislation is publicly available at the following websites:

- www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2023/0027/latest/whole.html#LMS825491.
- www.gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2023-sl3778.
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/ministerial-directions/continued-eligibility-for-social-housing-direction/list-of-amendments.html.

3. Recommencement of Tenancy Reviews - In March 2020 tenancy reviews for SH were paused in response to COVID-19. Reviews were reinstated for a select cohort of tenants from 22 March 2024. If you would like to read more about the reinstatement of tenancy reviews, I recommend you visit the links below.

- www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2024/recommencing-public-housing-tenancy-reviews/paper-recommencing-public-housing-tenancy-reviews.pdf.
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/tenancy-reviews/tenancy-reviews-restart.html.
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/ministerial-directions/reviews-of-continued-eligibility-for-social-housing/list-of-amendments.html.
- www.gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2024-sl758.
- www.beehive.govt.nz/release/tenancy-reviews-social-housing-restart.

4. Implementing Priority One fast-track - Introduced in April 2024 and aimed to reduce the number of families with dependent children in emergency housing and better support them into long-term housing. If you would like to read more about Priority One, please visit the following link:

- www.beehive.govt.nz/release/priority-one-effective-getting-kids-homes.

5. Implementation of first phase of the Social Housing Register management strategy - the Ministry was provided with an additional funding of \$11.72m over four years to improve management of SH register. Growing demand for SH and increased waitlist meant effectiveness management of the register required more resources.

You can read more about this change at the following websites:

- www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/bims/2023/bim-assoc.-minister-for-social-development-and-employment-housing.pdf.
- www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-01/cab-23-sub-0385-iu-report-assignments-15aug23.pdf (Appendix 3).

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.



Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services