



11 August 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2025, requesting information about the Housing register and pets.

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.

- *Any data or information on the number of people on the housing register with pets or who require accommodation suitable for a pet.*

Table 1 in the attached **Appendix** provides you with the number of applications with pets on the Social Housing Register as at month end from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025.

- *Any research on pets and homelessness, including on the ability to secure private or public housing.*

The Ministry of Social Development emailed you on 17 July 2025 to advise that this part of your request has been transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development who is the lead agency for Homelessness.

- *The number of emergency or transitional housing places available that include provision for a pet.*

The 'transitional housing' part of your request has also been transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development as advised on 17 July 2025.

Your request for 'The number of emergency housing places available that include provision for a pet' is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry of Social Development and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The Ministry understands how important pets are, as they can be a companion for many Ministry clients. However, having a pet can pose a problem for people in need of housing as there can be limited housing that will accept pets.

Staff work closely with clients to try and assist with finding accommodation solutions that allows them to keep their pet. Sadly, this can be a challenge for many New Zealanders in their search for housing, including Ministry clients.

Whether or not animals are allowed at emergency accommodation is at the discretion of the provider on a case-by-case basis. What conditions may be in place concerning animals in these emergency accommodation would be agreed on between the property owner and the animal owner.

- *Any data or research on the amount of time a person with a pet spends on the housing register.*

Table 2 in the attached **Appendix** provides you with the number of application with pets housed and the time to house from the Social Housing Register from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anna Graham', with a stylized, flowing script.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services