



11 February 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 5 January 2025, requesting information about demand for emergency and social housing in New Zealand.

On 8 January 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development transferred to us one question you asked them, to which we respond to as question 4 below.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

All information you have requested in questions 1 to 3 is publicly available on the Ministry's website, however I have provided links below to help you find this information more easily. I encourage you to explore the information and data that is available on the Ministry's website.

- 1. The number of individuals or families receiving emergency housing grants in the past year.*

The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) provides extensive reporting of data we hold about Emergency Housing and the Public Housing Register on our website here:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/index.html.

- 2. Any trends in the demand for social housing services over the last five years.*

You may find the following link to the Ministry's Social Housing Register – Archive useful, as it holds data going back to the 2014: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/archive/index.html.

- 3. Insights into the demographics of those seeking emergency or social housing (e.g., families, individuals, youth).*

You will see we provide an explanation of how we provide assistance to New Zealanders with serious housing needs, how their needs are assessed, and how

they are placed on the Housing Register, here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html.

Please note however, that while the Ministry provides extensive data on emergency housing grants, it is up to you to interpret that data for the insights or trends it may provide, for the information you are seeking.

4. Current data on the public housing register, including the total number of individuals and households on the waitlist and the average wait times for placement.

Please find attached **Appendix**: Number of clients on the Public Housing Register by quarters in 2024:

- **Table One:** Number of clients on the Public Housing Register as at quarters ending March to December 2024, by Priority.
- **Table Two:** Average time (days) to house clients on the Public Housing Register during 01 January to 31 December 2024, by Quarter.

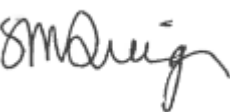
Please note that the Ministry reports on “time to house” data. This is the number of calendar days between the date an application is first confirmed on the Register as an ‘A’ or ‘B’ priority applicant and the date a tenancy is activated for that application. The Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people’s circumstance and situations change. Those assessed as having greater need for housing prioritised higher. As people’s needs change, their priority on the Register may also change. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

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
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Ministerial and Executive Services