



23 July 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your request of 25 June 2025 to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, of which the first question was transferred to the Ministry on the same day. Your first question asked for:

*'Data from the Public Housing Register, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, and care history for the period of 1 January 2023 to present, and for the age range of 10-25 years'*

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

The information you require is found at the following publicly available link:

- [Housing Register - Ministry of Social Development](#)

Please note those eligible for social housing must be 16 years and older. In the Register data, the Ministry reports the age of the main applicant in age brackets, with the youngest presented as '24 years and younger'. However, the youngest possible age able to apply is 16 years old.

You have mentioned 'care history' in your request. I have interpreted this to mean whether an applicant on the Public Housing Register was in, or had been in, state care. Any information about an applicant would be stored in that individual client's records and would not necessarily be collected when they applied to the Public Housing Register, as this is not an eligibility requirement for public housing. Therefore, this information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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.

You can find further information on eligibility here: [Who can get public housing - Work and Income](#).

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, 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. 

Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**