



28 MAR 2017



On 9 February 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Statistics pertaining to the number of social housing tenants requesting to move residence between July 2015 and February 2017.*
- *Details of these requests including why tenants asked to move, including the Ministry of Social Development's response based on these requests.*
- *In addition to a breakdown table which includes overall statistics for the period requested, I would like a breakdown on a month-by-month basis.*

As you are aware, the Social Housing Register, which includes both the housing and transfer register, is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into social housing accommodation is about matching them with the right property in the area they want to live. Those assessed as having a greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority and relative place on the register may change also.

People who already live in social housing, but have applied and are eligible to transfer to another social housing property, are placed on the Transfer Register. Current social housing tenants can request a transfer from the Ministry if their current accommodation becomes unsuitable because of a change in circumstances. These applicants must meet the same criteria as new applicants for social housing. If eligible, these applications will be placed on the Transfer Register until a more suitable property that meets their changed needs becomes available.

Reasons for requesting a transfer may include, but are not limited to health issues, the size of a tenant's current accommodation becoming unsuitable due to household members moving in or out, safety issues in the home or current neighbourhood, or the existing accommodation is in a unsuitable location (eg applicants unable to access essential services relevant to their circumstances such as a hospital or school).

Existing Housing New Zealand tenants may also be identified for a business initiated transfer (BIT) where their current property no longer meets their housing need or where the property is required for refurbishment or redevelopment. The Ministry has limited visibility of business initiated transfers, and any requests for information here should be directed to Housing New Zealand Corporation.

Further information about the Social Housing Register, which is reported on a quarterly basis and by territorial local authority or local board for Auckland, is available at:

<http://housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/index.html>

Please find the enclosed table that shows the number of applications who are on the Transfer Register for each quarter broken down by the top five primary reasons for requesting a housing transfer.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 this response, 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.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher
Deputy Chief Executive, Housing

The number of Applications on the Transfer Register broken down by quarter and the top five reasons for requesting a transfer.

Primary Reason for Housing	Quarter Ending					
	30 Sep 2015	31 Dec 2015	31 Mar 2016	30 Jun 2016	30 Sep 2016	31 Dec 2016
Medical or other special need	440	461	401	410	404	419
Neighbourhood or safety issues	286	301	265	311	320	381
Current accommodation is inadequate or unsuitable	239	260	256	279	312	365
Employment or family reasons	67	73	66	82	76	106
Tenancy ending / eviction	16	20	24	34	26	26
Other	20	28	24	19	30	42
Total	1,068	1,143	1,036	1,135	1,168	1,339

Notes:

- This data includes applications that are priority A and B and are on the Transfer Register at the end of each quarter.
- Primary reason for housing is at the application level.
- "Tenancy ending / evictions" may include situations where a tenancy is due to end, but the tenant is in social housing at the time of application.
- "Other" includes the following reasons: financial stress, unable to access alternative housing and those instances where no primary reason is stated.