



17 November 2023

Tēnā koe

On 30 October 2023, you submitted a query via the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry's) website requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information about the Public Housing Register.

Thank you for your further email of 6 November 2023, refining an aspect of your original request. I have determined that the Ministry is able to partially grant your request.

The Ministry's website provides guidance regarding how applicants for the Public Housing Register (the Register) engage with the registration process: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/find-a-house/apply-for-public-housing.html.

Your request for disaggregated data at the SA2 level for the Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu local board areas is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. This information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. The Ministry does not currently report below local board area and doing so would require the Ministry to undertake substantial manual processing, including the use of new coding and mapping. 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. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

Please see **Appendix 1** containing the Register data for the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu local board, the Ōtara-Papatoetoe local board, and the Territorial Local Authorities (TLAs) in the South Island you nominated for the period 30 June 2018 to 30 June 2023. Data for all ethnicities recorded on the Register has been provided to enable you to filter the information you require to facilitate comparison and to see how the total has been derived.

To protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to

protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in the information.

It is important to note that the ethnicity data the Ministry uses in reporting is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Total response ethnicity means that if a person identifies with more than one ethnic group, they are counted in each applicable group. Because a client can choose more than one ethnicity response, the total number of ethnicity responses will be greater than the number of clients.

'Not specified' is used when the client's ethnicity is not recorded. 'Other ethnicity' is used when ethnicities fall disclosed outside the reported ethnicities. Further information regarding the Ministry's reporting of ethnicity is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/tools/how-we-report-ethnicity.html.

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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry'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.

Ngā mihi nui



Karen Hocking
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Housing