



14 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 3 August 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding Public Housing:

- 1./ *How many families are waiting for housing in Ohakune alone*
- 2./ *How many individuals are waiting on housing in Ohakune alone*
- 3./ *How many bedroom houses these will require (i.e. 3 x 1 bedroom houses, 2 x 2 bedroom houses, 1 x 3 bedroom house).*

On 31 August 2023, the Ministry advised you that while we had decided to grant your request in part, further time was required to finalise the information to be released to you. Thank you for your patience while this occurred.

When New Zealanders need Public Housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in Public Housing who have applied to be rehoused. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register). While the Ministry completes housing assessments which inform the Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora, respectively.

The Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right number of bedrooms, is close to essential services such as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having greater need for housing will be 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.

The Ministry does not record families on the Housing Register, but rather households, which are based off the number of primary applicants. This is

because the adults involved in a single household may not be related to each other/consider themselves a family.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need, housing need priority ratings and the calculation of overall priority ratings can be found on the Work and Income website, here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html).

However, in the spirit of being helpful, I am providing you with the enclosed **Appendix, Table One** which shows the number of primary applicants, adults and children included in applications for the Housing Register in the Ruapehu Territorial Local Authority (TLA) as at 30 June 2023, broken down by required number of bedrooms.

You can view more information, including data for the last five years, at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html).

In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. As such, your request for a breakdown of the number of households and individuals on the Housing Register in Ohakune is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, as the number of individuals in question is small. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Public Housing wait list, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PP. Karen Hocking', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking  
**Group General Manager**  
**Housing**



## Appendix

**Table One: The number of primary applicants, adults and children included in applications for the Housing Register in the Ruapehu Territorial Local Authority as at 30 June 2023, broken down by required number of bedrooms.**

Required Number of Bedrooms	As at 30 June 2023		
	Number of Primary Applicants	Number of Adults	Number of Children
1 bedroom	36	39	0
2 bedrooms	18	21	27
3 bedrooms	9	9	27
4 bedrooms	S	S	12
5 or more bedrooms	S	S	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>

### Notes for Table:

- This only includes Priority A and Priority B applications on the Housing Register.
- When an application for public housing is lodged the details of each individual in the household are recorded.
- Households on the Public Housing Register are required to notify the Ministry of any change in circumstances, including household changes.
- This means that the Ministry can report on the number of children in households on the Public Housing Register.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of each period.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.
- In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
- Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
- Cells with 'S' are those where data has been suppressed to protect identification of individuals and is applied to values less than 6.