



10 April 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2025, requesting A breakdown of EH Grants and the Housing Register, including region, age, household composition, and age of children.

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

Please find the information requested attached in **Appendices A and B**.

Some information in the attached tables has been marked as 'S'. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in the information.

When we assess someone's social housing needs, they are encouraged to nominate at least three letting areas and consider areas outside of their immediate location. Clients may be informed of additional letting areas available which they have not selected. However, we do not actively encourage people to move to those areas.

Within the Priority 1 Fast Track cohort those with a higher social allocation system rating receive priority.

Information relating to assessment of housing need can be found on our website at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html.

The Ministry's practice and data capture in respect of emergency housing declines has improved, with all applications now having the result recorded, providing greater transparency for clients. However, this makes it difficult to compare data pre/post implementation of the new rules for entry into emergency housing.

When people first present for emergency housing, staff test the availability of alternative accommodation options (e.g. staying with whanau and friends) to determine eligibility for the Emergency Housing Grant. It is important to note that over 85% of all people applying for emergency housing are granted support.

Where clients have been declined emergency housing, they may be offered other forms of assistance such as; the Accommodation Supplement, Bond Grant, Moving Costs Grant, Costs (rent) in Advance Grant or Tenancy Costs Cover Grant (provides assurances to potential landlords that the Ministry will pay the applicant's outstanding costs at the end of the tenancy, if those costs exceed the amount of bond paid).

Clients may also be referred to Transitional Housing providers that provide housing for up to 12 weeks while more stable housing is obtained.

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
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services