



10 April 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 12 March 2025, requesting information on the Housing Register, Priority One category and disabled people.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out below.

1. *All written advice provided to the responsible Minister regarding the impacts of the Priority One Fast Track policy, and any impacts on disabled people on the Public Housing Register since 1 November 2023.*

You have referenced a publicly available Aide memoire (AM) dated 30 January 2024 to Hons Bishop, Upston and Potaka in your request. In addition to this AM there are three further reports in scope of your request for advice on the large-scale use of Emergency Housing. All are publicly available, at these links:

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) advice to Ministers about ending the large-scale use of EH: [hud2024-003988-rep-24-3-188.pdf](https://www.hud.govt.nz/documents/hud2024-003988-rep-24-3-188.pdf).
- The Supplementary Analysis Report: Tightening the Gateway into Emergency Housing: [Supplementary-Analysis-Report-Tightening-the-Gateway-into-Emergency-Housing.pdf](https://www.hud.govt.nz/documents/Supplementary-Analysis-Report-Tightening-the-Gateway-into-Emergency-Housing.pdf).
- Hon Tama Potaka's speech that discusses the Government's changes to emergency housing on 27 November 2024: [Speech to the Community Housing Aotearoa Annual Conference | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speeches/speech-to-the-community-housing-aotearoa-annual-conference).

You will see in the HUD advice to Ministers parts are withheld under three sections of the Act, sections 9(2)(f)(iv) (confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials), 9(2)(g)(i) (free and frank advice between Ministers of the Crown and officials) and 9(2)(h) (legal privilege). The redactions were applied by HUD and if you have any questions, I recommend you contact HUD if you wish to query any of those redactions.

You will also see in the Supplementary Analysis Report that was prepared by this Ministry, there are a few redactions under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

It may be helpful at this point if I clarify the Priority One Fast Track policy as your request asked:

"We are interested in understanding how the Priority One Fast Track for Emergency Housing has impacted people on the Public Housing Register who live with a disability. We refer to advice highlighting the potential for the Priority One Fast Track policy to deprioritise disabled people on the Public Housing Register."

You noted the above AM and drew attention to the following section:

"The policy may work against interests and opportunities for disabled people on the Register, as unless they are otherwise eligible for Priority One, they will be relatively de-prioritised. Disabled people are already at significant disadvantage for social housing, due to low supply of accessible/adapted housing suitable for their needs."

A priority one category was established on the Social Housing Register for families with dependent children to ensure that families with dependent children in Emergency Housing for extended periods (12 weeks or more) are prioritised for access to social housing.

The Priority One Fast Track policy may have disadvantaged specific cohorts who are not eligible for the Priority One Fast Track. However, it should be noted that:

- Those who have a Priority One Fast Track for emergency housing may have a disability.
- Those with disabilities are more likely to be impacted by lack of access to modified properties.
- The number of clients with a Priority One Fast Track has decreased significantly, and they make up less than 1% of those placed in social housing.

2. *Please also provide the most recent reporting data on the Public Housing Register and the Priority One Fast Track. Such reporting should have been proved to the responsible DCE, GM or oversight committee. Ideally this would include recent trends and variables including disability status. Please provide the report that included the data and an Excel sheet of the raw data behind the reporting so we can attempt to calculate cross tabs related to disability.*
3. *If the above reporting data does not include disability status, please provide the most recent internal analysis or estimate of the disability status of those on the Public Housing Register, perhaps estimated by using beneficiary stats and benefit types.*

Please find attached an **Appendix**, which contains three tables setting out the number of primary applicants who are Priority One Fast-Track on the Housing Register as at month end 1 June 2024 to 28 February 2025, by housing region, household composition, and age group.

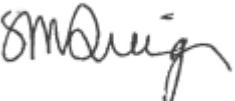
Please note that as advised above the Priority One Fast Track was established on the Social Housing Register for families with dependent children to ensure that families with dependent children in Emergency Housing for extended periods (12 weeks or more) are prioritised for access to social housing. You will see that we have provided data of primary applicants receiving Disability Allowance. However, you will note that we clarify this is not a count of Disability Allowances.

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
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Ministerial and Executive Services