



14 April 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2026, requesting data relating to children in emergency housing over last three years.

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 separately below. Some sections are grouped together for clarity.

On 26 February 2026, we transferred part of your request to the Associate Minister of Housing as that part of your request is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of Hon Tama Potaka as the Associate Minister of Housing.

You clarified that the last three years can be defined as 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025.

Question 1: The number of children placed in emergency housing in each of the last three years, broken down by region and age group.

Question 2: The average and median length of stay for children in emergency housing, including the longest recorded stays.

Question 3: The number of families with children placed in emergency housing for longer than, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Please refer to **Appendix One** which provides the following tables:

- **Table One:** Number of households with children and number of children in Emergency Housing at the end of each month from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2025 (*by month end and MSD region*)
- **Table Two:** Number of households with children and number of children in Emergency Housing at the end of each month from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2025 (*by month end and age group of primary recipient*)
- **Table Three:** Average, median, and longest number of consecutive weeks stayed in Emergency Housing for household with children as at the end of each month from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2025
- **Table Four:** Number of households with children staying in Emergency Housing as at the end of each month from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2025.

We are unable to provide age groups for children, as this information is not centrally recorded. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section

18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. Where held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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.

Question 4: Any internal reports, reviews, or evaluations relating to the wellbeing or outcomes of children in emergency housing.

Question 10: Copies of any internal reports, dashboards, or briefing papers analysing exit pathways or post-exit outcomes for families with children.

We have identified the following publicly available resources that are available on the Ministry's website:

- Social Outcomes Model – Social Housing system insights: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/benefit-system/social-outcomes-model-2023-housing-system-insights-report.pdf
- Households accessing Emergency Housing: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/insights-reporting-series/households-accessing-emergency-housing.html
- Emergency Housing Deep Dive Report – July 2024: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/emergency-housing-deep-dive-report-july-2024.html
- Monthly Housing Reporting: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/monthly-housing-reporting.html

Question 5: Any serious incidents or complaints involving children in emergency housing in the last three years.

This part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. Where held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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.

Question 6: The number of families with dependent children who exited emergency housing during this period, broken down by region.

The Ministry does not track outcomes for specific children after leaving emergency housing. This is because at the point of an Emergency Housing Grant application, the client will provide Ministry staff with the total number of adults and children

who will likely be staying at the emergency accommodation with them. However, there is no confirmation of whether the children and/or adults will be staying in emergency accommodation for the duration of the stay that the emergency housing grant covers.

Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. Where held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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.

We are providing you with the number of households who have been tagged Priority One Fast Track and have entered social housing. The Priority One category was introduced on 30 April 2024 to the social housing waitlist to get whānau with children who had been living in emergency housing for 12 weeks or more into stable homes. Between May 2024 and November 2025, 1,089 Priority One Fast Track households were placed in Social Housing, with 2,337 children living in those households.

Question 7: For those families, the housing outcome recorded at the point of exit:

The Ministry is unable to provide housing outcomes for families residing in emergency housing at the dependent child level, as this information is not centrally recorded. This part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. Where held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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.

To be helpful, we are providing you with **Appendix Two** which provides the number of households that have exited emergency housing during September 2024 to September 2025, by quarter, and the type of housing related service that they accessed upon exiting emergency housing. After leaving emergency housing, households are under no obligation to tell the Ministry where they are moving to. We need to balance the requirement to monitor the effectiveness of our interventions with the need to respect individuals' reasonable right to privacy.

Question 8: The average and longest time spent in emergency housing before exit, by housing outcome category.

placement into public or social housing,

- placement into transitional housing,*
- private rental accommodation,*
- return to previous accommodation,*

- *placement with family or friends,*
- *exit from the MSD system without a recorded housing outcome.*

Question 9: The number of families with children who exited emergency housing but subsequently re-entered emergency housing within 3, 6, or 12 months.

These parts of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. Where held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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.

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

Appendix Two: The number of households that have exited emergency housing during September 2024 to September 2025, by quarter, and the type of housing related service that the household accessed upon exiting emergency housing.

Month	Social Housing	Community Housing Provider	Kāinga Ora	Transitional Housing	Accommodation Supplement	No service accessed*
September 2024	159	18	144	141	147	93
December 2024	141	15	126	111	75	54
March 2025	54	3	51	96	54	51
June 2025	63	6	57	93	63	48
September 2025	57	9	48	102	69	48

*'No service accessed' means that the household did not access Social Housing, a Community Housing Provider, Kāinga Ora, Transitional Housing or Accommodation Supplement upon exiting emergency housing.

**This data has been randomly rounded to base 3, and as such may differ from official published figures.