



18 AUG 2017

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

On 12 July 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Hauraki Maori Trust Board, are wanting a population profile completed on part of their catchment area. This area covers three TA's; Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki District and Piako area(only). Although a lot of this information is available online through the MSD site we are unable to separate the Matamata/Piako district data. We are looking at three departments within MSD; Work and Income, Housing and Ministry of Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki and to have the specific data we request broken down across māori / non-māori and where available iwi which should be captured by Ministry of Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki for this population.*

As you are aware, on 25 July 2017, the part of your request regarding children was transferred to Gráinne Moss, the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki.

On 13 July 2017, a Ministerial and Executive Services Advisor called you to clarify your request. It was discussed the information you were requesting from the Ministry was the information outlined below, with the requests in italics, for the Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki District, and Piako areas.

Relevant to all parts of your request, the Ministry does not hold the information specifically about the Piako area split out from the Matamata area. The Matamata-Piako area is a single Territorial Local Authority (TLA), and there is no easily definable split within this district, and no documentation that relates area units within Matamata-Piako to one of either Matamata or Piako.

The Ministry is unable to provide information for just the Piako area without the creation of new reporting, and the creation of boundaries to define Piako. Consequently, your request for the information to be provided for the Piako area only (as opposed to the Piako-Matamata TLA) is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation. The following information is for the three TLA areas: Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata- Piako.

Each part of your request is addressed in turn below.

- *The number of working age recipients of main benefits, broken down by ethnicity as at the end of the June quarter, for the three areas.*

As you are aware, the Ministry publishes this data broken down by TLA in the quarterly Benefit Fact Sheets, available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html. This includes the Thames-Coromandel district, Hauraki District, and the Matamata-Piako district. Also available from this web-link is the data broken down by district council and by Work and Income Service Centre.

- *The number of clients who have received emergency housing Special Needs Grants in the three areas, in the most recently available quarter.*

As of 1 July 2016, the non-recoverable Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (SNG) was made available to people who, for various reasons, cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and will not have access to other accommodation that is adequate for their or their family's needs.

The Ministry contracts emergency housing places and staff endeavour to place eligible clients with an urgent need in transitional housing as a first option. Where that is not possible, and where there is eligibility, the Ministry is able to meet the cost of temporary accommodation, such as motels or hotels, through the Emergency Housing SNG.

Further information regarding Emergency Housing SNGs is available on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/emergency-housing.html.

The number of clients in receipt of Emergency Housing SNGs for each TLA area you have asked about is very low. To break this information down by area and ethnicity would risk the identification of individuals. As such, data broken down to this level would result in a table that was entirely suppressed, in accordance 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 this information. Instead, the Ministry is able to provide the information you requested for the three areas combined.

Table 1: The number of clients in the Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, or Matamata-Piako Territorial Local Authority areas, who received an emergency housing SNG broken down by whether the clients were of Māori or another ethnicity, for the quarter ending June 2017.

Ethnic group	Number of clients
Māori	18
All other	17
Total	35

Notes:

- This table shows the total number of clients that received one or more Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in the Thames-Coromandel District, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako Territorial Local Authority areas.
- 'The row 'All other' includes all ethnic groups other than Māori.
- Ethnicity data is self-identified. A client may nominate multiple ethnicities as fits their preference or self-concept. However, when the Ministry reports on this data people are grouped by a single ethnicity based on standard Ministry practice. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.

- The number of social housing tenants in the three areas.
- The number of applicants on the Social Housing Register broken down by ethnicity, for the three areas.
- Social Housing available in the three areas.

The Ministry contracts social housing tenancies by paying a rent subsidy for each tenancy to Housing New Zealand or to registered Community Housing Providers. Social housing tenants pay no more than 25 per cent of their income in rent, and the Ministry pays the balance as the Income-Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS).

The latest information on how and where the Ministry expects to fund social housing tenancies through the IRRS is available in the document titled, '*Social housing purchasing strategy for Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS) places, December 2016 update*'. This document is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/housing/purchasing-intentions/index.html.

The Waikato regional overview of the Purchasing Strategy includes the purchasing intentions for additional IRRS places, the current IRRS places by number of bedrooms, and the projected change within the base of existing IRRS places, broken down by TLA.

The table below shows the social housing tenancies in the three areas as at the end of June 2017.

Table 2: The number of Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies, broken down by the ethnicity of the primary tenant, for the Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, and Matamata- Piako districts, as at the end of June 2017.

Ethnic group	Territorial Local Authority			TOTAL
	Hauraki District	Matamata-Piako District	Thames - Coromandel District	
Māori	53	105	99	257
All other	49	63	103	215
Total	102	168	202	472

Notes:

- This table shows the number of both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the tenancy address. TLA is defined under the Local Government Act 2002 as a city council or district council.
- There is sometimes a delay in tenancy information reaching the Ministry and as such tenancy numbers may not align with HNZ and CHP tenancy numbers at a point in time.
- 'The row 'All other' includes all ethnic groups other than Māori.
- Ethnicity data is self-identified. A client may nominate multiple ethnicities as fits their preference or self-concept. However, when the Ministry reports on this data people are grouped by a single ethnicity based on standard Ministry practice. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings.

Demographic information about the applicants on the Social Housing Register, broken down by TLA is available from the Ministry's website at: housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/index.html#Overviewofcurrentsocialhousingdemand. The interactive spread-sheet available from this webpage titled, '*Current social housing demand*' allows the user to filter the information by the ethnicity of the applicants.

Further information about social housing is available from the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/housing/index.html, and social housing news, reports and publications is available from the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/news/index.html, including information about the Social Housing Reform Programme.

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 available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development'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.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher
Deputy Chief Executive, Housing