



26 JUL 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 15 June 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *How many people on the housing register receive a disability allowance?*
2. *How many people on the housing register have applied for modified housing?*
3. *How many people who live in a Housing NZ home receive a disability allowance?*
4. *How many people who live in a Housing NZ home are waiting to be moved to a modified home?*
5. *How many accessible/modified homes does Housing NZ have?*
6. *What is the average cost of retrofitting a home for those with mobility issues?*
7. *What is the average cost of building a modified home, new?*
8. *What is the average cost of building a non-modified home, new?*

On 28 June 2018, the Ministry transferred the following four questions to Housing New Zealand, as this information is more closely aligned with their function:

5. *How many accessible/modified homes does Housing NZ have?*
6. *What is the average cost of retrofitting a home for those with mobility issues?*
7. *What is the average cost of building a modified home, new?*
8. *What is the average cost of building a non-modified home, new?*

The Ministry took over responsibility for managing Social Housing applications and the Social Housing Register in April 2014. The Social Housing Register is dynamic rather than static, and 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 the greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority on the Register may change also. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

All clients who approach the Ministry seeking Social Housing are offered other financial assistance where it is appropriate for their situation. This can include Accommodation Supplement for private rent, Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, or a Recoverable Assistance Payment Grant. Further information regarding available support can be accessed on the Ministry's website here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/living-expenses/housing.html).

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The Social Housing Register consists of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Social Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Social Housing. The Transfer Register represents those already in Public Housing who are eligible to be rehoused, generally due to a change in circumstances prompting a move to somewhere more appropriate to their needs.

Enclosed are the following four tables:

- Table One shows the number of applications on the Social Housing Register by Register type, and whether the main applicant is in receipt of a Disability Allowance as at 31 March 2018
- Table Two shows the number of applications on the Social Housing Register by Register type, and whether they require a modified house as at 31 March 2018
- Table Three shows the number of Social Housing tenancies by Provider, and whether the main tenant is in receipt of a Disability Allowance as at 31 March 2018
- Table Four shows the number of applications on the Transfer Register by current tenancy provider, and whether they require a modified house as at 31 March 2018.

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 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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Housing**

**Table One: Number of applications on the Social Housing Register by Register type, and whether the main applicant is in receipt of a Disability Allowance as at 31 March 2018.**

Main applicant in receipt of a DA	Housing Register	Transfer Register	Total Social Housing Register
No	5,510	1,096	6,606
Yes	2,380	709	3,089
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,890</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>9,695</b>

**Notes:**

- DA is Disability Allowance.
- DA provides non-taxable assistance to people who have on-going additional costs because of a disability.
- The data above reflects information where only the main applicant on the Social Housing Register application is receiving a DA.
- Priority A and B applications on both the Housing and Transfer Registers are included.

**Table Two: Number of applications on the Social Housing Register by Register type, and whether they require a modified house as at 31 March 2018.**

Applicant requires a modified house	Housing Register	Transfer Register	Total Social Housing Register
No	7,566	1,632	9,198
Yes	324	173	497
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,890</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>9,695</b>

**Notes:**

- This includes priority A and B applications on both the Housing and Transfer Registers.

**Table Three: Number of Social Housing tenancies by Provider, and whether the main tenant is in receipt of a Disability Allowance as at 31 March 2018.**

Main tenant in receipt of a DA	Community Housing Providers	Housing New Zealand	Total tenancies
No	3,309	39,819	43,128
Yes	1,935	20,410	22,345
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>60,229</b>	<b>65,473</b>

**Notes:**

- The data above reflects information where the main applicant on the Social Housing Register application is receiving a DA.
- This includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies.
- There is sometimes a delay in tenancy information reaching the Ministry. As such, tenancy numbers may not align with HNZ and CHP tenancy numbers at a point in time.

**Table Four: Number of applications on the Transfer Register by current tenancy provider, and whether they require a modified house as at 31 March 2018.**

<b>Applicant requires a modified house</b>	<b>Community Housing Providers</b>	<b>Housing New Zealand</b>	<b>Total tenancies</b>
No	135	1,497	1,631
Yes	7	166	173
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>1,805</b>

**Notes:**

- Priority A and B applications on the Transfer Register are included.
- An applicant on the Transfer Register may be a main tenant, spouse of a tenant or an additional occupant in a Public Housing tenancy.