



18 JUN 2018  
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Dear [REDACTED]

On 9 April 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding clients the Ministry helped relocate due to safety issues being identified.

On 7 May 2018, the fourth part of your request was further refined to include only a list of titles of reports relating to housing supply that were sent to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development's office between 1 January 2018 and 16 April 2018.

For the sake of clarity, I will address each of your questions in turn.

- *In the past year (since April 2017), how many people (or families) has MSD or Work and Income helped relocate due to safety issues being identified?*
- *In all cases, what were the different types of accommodation where people were relocated to as short term or emergency accommodation option? (for example, marae, motel, camping ground, another house etc.)*

To help answer these questions, the Ministry considered clients in public housing, clients who received a hardship grant due to domestic violence and clients who received an Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (SNG).

**Table One: Number of Public Housing applicants housed between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 where the primary reason for housing was 'neighbourhood or safety issues' broken down by quarter, including the total number of Public Housing applicants housed between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.**

<b>Quarter housed</b>	<b>Applicants housed due to neighbourhood or safety issues</b>	<b>All applicants housed</b>
Jun-17	111	1,725
Sep-17	103	1,876
Dec-17	69	1,673
Mar-18	71	1,568
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>6,842</b>

Notes:

- Applications housed may have been housed with Housing New Zealand (HNZ) Corporation or with a community housing provider.
- Applications are considered housed in Public Housing when the application register status is changed to 'active tenancy'. The date a tenancy is activated may differ from the tenancy start date.
- The primary reason for housing need is captured at the initial application for public housing through an assessment. It is static and is based on the initial reason for the public housing application.
- Safety issues are considered when the housing need of an applicant is assessed. Further information regarding Public Housing need assessment criteria is available at [www.housing.msd.govt.nz/housing-options/social-housing/application-process.html](http://www.housing.msd.govt.nz/housing-options/social-housing/application-process.html).

The Ministry also provides hardship grants to assist people experiencing domestic violence. Between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, 93 distinct clients were identified to have received hardship grants due to domestic violence. However, this hardship grant was not solely intended for the purpose of relocation assistance, and in a number of these cases clients may not have necessarily relocated. Recipients may have used it to pay for things such as food, petrol or counselling. In other instances, the Ministry may not have recorded if clients relocated, or where they relocated to. Ultimately, it depends on the type of information that might have been shared with the Ministry at the time. I am therefore unable to provide you the number of clients who used this grant to assist with relocations, or the types of accommodation to which these clients were relocated. If this information was recorded, it would be held in the notes on the clients' individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review these files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The Ministry provides Emergency Housing SNGs to fund temporary emergency accommodation in places such as hotels and motels. The Ministry issued 6,138 Emergency Housing SNGs in the quarter ending March 2018. The Ministry does not automatically capture any information associated with whether any of these SNGs were related to safety issues. In order to provide you with the number of clients who received an Emergency Housing SNG and had to relocate due to safety issues and the type of accommodation they relocated to, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. 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.

- *What were the different types of issues families or individuals encountered which prompted them to want to move from their home or flat? (For example, was it family violence, harassment from a neighbour, known offender or former inmate living in the vicinity?)*

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. 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.

However, you may be interested to know that the primary reasons for housing identified in the Public Housing applications between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 include homelessness, inadequate current accommodation, end of tenancy or eviction, inability to access alternative housing, medical or special needs, financial stress and employment or family reasons. You can find information associated with this in the Ministry's Housing Quarterly Report which is available at [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-quarterly-report.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-quarterly-report.html).

- Please provide a list of titles of reports relating to housing supply that were sent to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development's office between 1 January 2018 and 16 April 2018.

Table 2 below lists titles of reports relating to housing supply that were sent to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development's office between 1 January 2018 and 16 April 2018, including the date they were received by the Minister's office.

Date received	Title
17/01/2018	Advice – Request from Blenheim Sun – purchasing intentions and/or emergency/transitional housing
19/01/2018	Aide-mémoire: Trust House Limited: Background Information
19/01/2018	Housing and Urban Development Strategic Direction Cabinet paper: scenarios advice and next steps
19/01/2018	<i>withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>
25/01/2018	Budget 2018: Updated letters on Manifesto bids and reprioritisation/savings opportunities
29/01/2018	Meeting with Community Housing Aotearoa
16/02/2018	Purchasing Strategy for public housing overview of the purpose, proposed content and release of the next iteration
20/02/2018	Current Funding Policy and medium - term direction for public housing
21/02/2018	Budget 2018 – Revised Public and Transitional Housing Supply cost pressure bid
2/03/2018	<i>withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>
6/03/2018	<i>withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>
15/03/2018	Transitional Housing - Request for Funding Approval
16/03/2018	Revised Public and Transitional Housing Supply cost pressure
16/03/2018	Public Housing Bids Summary of changes
21/03/2018	New public housing supply: Strategic Partnering
21/03/2018	New Public Housing Supply in Auckland: Seeking Agreement to Progress <i>withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>
22/03/2018	New Public Housing Supply in Auckland: Seeking Agreement to Progress Opportunities for New Housing Supply <i>withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>
29/03/2018	MBIE's briefing on options for staging the increase in the Refugee Quota - housing implications
29/03/2018	2018 / 2019 Draft Estimates of Appropriations for Vote Social Housing: approval of non-financial performance information
6/04/2018	Winter 2018 Contingency Planning

Some titles are withheld, partially or otherwise, under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as they contain information that is under active consideration. 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.

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 regarding clients the Ministry has helped relocate due to safety issues being identified, 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**