



9 APR 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2019 in which you clarified your request, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for information regarding Social Housing. On 22 February 2019, you were advised that part of your request was transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for their response.

The Ministry of Social Development is responding to your request for the following:

- 1) *The number and percentage of primary tenants in social housing who are also in receipt of Supported Living Payment or Jobseeker Support – Health Condition and Disability, broken down by which of the two benefits, and if possible the primary incapacity type, as far back as records allow*
- 2) *The numbers and percentage of primary applicants who are/have been on the social housing register and who are also in receipt of Supported Living Payment or Jobseeker Support – Health Condition and Disability, broken down by which of the two benefits, and if possible the primary incapacity type, as far back as records allow*
- 3) *the number and percentage of inquiries about social housing by disabled people as far back as your records allow*
- 4) *the definition of disability that you use.*

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 house 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.

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.

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Information regarding eligibility for public housing is available on the Ministry's website at: [www.housing.msd.govt.nz/housing-options/social-housing/who-can-get-social-housing.html](http://www.housing.msd.govt.nz/housing-options/social-housing/who-can-get-social-housing.html)

You have specifically asked about *the number and percentage of inquiries about social housing by disabled people*. Enquiries regarding public housing are not centrally recorded in a way that allows for reporting. Where queries are recorded, this is in notes on individual case files. Although the Ministry is unable to provide you this information under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry or any other organisation, I hope that the enclosed data will be helpful to you.

Enclosed are the following two 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 main benefit due to an incapacity as at the end of December 2015 to 2018.
- Table Two shows the number of Social Housing tenancies and whether the main applicant is in receipt of a main benefit due to an incapacity as at the end of December 2015 to 2018.

Please note that this reporting is based on people in receipt of the Supported Living Payment or Jobseeker Support – Health Condition, Injury and Disability. These types of assistance do not use a definition of "disability" rather there are eligibility criteria that an individual must meet. More information regarding eligibility criteria is available at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/).

Consideration has been given to whether your request could be answered more fully given more time or the ability to charge. In either case, the ability of the Ministry to carry out its work would still be prejudiced.

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 recipients of the Supported Living Payment and Jobseeker Support – Health Condition and Disability on the Social Housing Register, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Wise', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cassandra Wise  
**Team Manager Issues Resolution**

**Table One: Number of applications on the Social Housing Register by Register type, and whether the main applicant is in receipt of a main benefit due to an incapacity as at the end of December 2015 to 2018.**

Benefit Type	Primary Incapacity	31-Dec-15		31-Dec-16		31-Dec-17		31-Dec-18		
		Housing Register	Transfer Register	Housing Register	Transfer Register	Housing Register	Transfer Register	Housing Register	Transfer Register	
Jobseeker Support - Health Condition, Injury and Disabilities (JS HCD)	Pregnancy related	17	1	18	2	23	2	33	3	
	Musculo-skeletal	62	18	86	21	126	28	203	43	
	Respiratory	12	3	19	10	25	6	34	4	
	Nervous System	10	1	14	2	14	2	46	7	
	Cardio-vascular	19	7	26	2	36	5	64	11	
	Metabolic and endocrine	26	4	28	5	43	7	70	8	
	Psychological, psychiatric, and substance abuse	299	48	378	54	534	64	877	120	
	Accident	23	4	33	5	41	6	65	5	
	Other	35	8	52	9	92	12	127	20	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>221</b>	
	Supported Living Payment (Excl. Carers)	Congenital conditions	23	13	22	9	18	14	40	14
		Cancer	16	13	14	10	16	8	31	14
		Musculo-skeletal	59	38	95	41	104	46	147	53
		Respiratory	39	16	42	18	62	17	81	20
Genito-urinary		16	11	19	11	23	8	21	11	
Nervous system		60	22	71	29	79	27	126	37	
Cardio-vascular		63	22	63	27	76	21	127	35	
Metabolic and endocrine		27	14	33	13	35	13	53	15	
Psychological, psychiatric, and substance abuse		314	100	500	120	607	142	967	230	
Intellectual disability		29	12	42	18	50	19	89	20	
Sensory disorders		17	7	30	8	30	13	44	14	
Accident		35	8	53	11	58	17	92	19	
Other		47	20	44	15	52	17	94	22	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,248</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>3,431</b>	<b>725</b>	
No Benefit	247	85	244	103	366	119	640	189		
Other Benefit	1,981	668	2,845	796	3,672	930	6,641	1,460		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>6,182</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>10,712</b>	<b>2,374</b>		

**Note:**

- This includes applications both on the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- This only includes priority A and B applications.
- Other benefit Includes Supported Living Payment Carers, Jobseeker Support, Non Beneficiaries, Sole Parent Support, New Zealand Superannuation, Veterans Pension, Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment clients

**Table Two: Number of Social Housing tenancies and whether the main applicant is in receipt of a main benefit due to an incapacity as at the end of December 2015 to 2018.**

Benefit Type	Primary Incapacity	31-Dec-15	31-Dec-16	31-Dec-17	31-Dec-18
Jobseeker Support - Health Condition, Injury and Disabilities (JS HCD)	Pregnancy related	31	28	44	25
	Congenital conditions	14	15	12	9
	Cancer	68	62	82	85
	Infectious/parasitic diseases	47	44	47	46
	Musculo-skeletal sys. disorder	947	1,004	1,111	1,128
	Respiratory disorders	211	230	240	264
	Genito-urinary disorders	62	50	61	57
	Blood and blood forming organs	18	22	20	20
	Skin disorders	37	38	39	39
	Digestive system disorders	70	76	76	75
	Nervous system disorders	110	92	115	131
	Cardio-vascular disorders	328	297	284	318
	Metabolic & endocrine disorders	363	361	328	357
	Psychological, psychiatric, and substance abuse	1,926	1,918	2,267	2,509
	Sensory disorders	66	54	74	71
	Accident	228	240	263	263
	Other	123	117	127	147
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,649</b>	<b>4,648</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>5,544</b>
Supported Living Payment (Excl. Carers)	Congenital conditions	251	270	288	286
	Cancer	244	254	254	248
	Infectious/parasitic diseases	104	104	126	111
	Musculo-skeletal sys. disorder	1,259	1,211	1,235	1,228
	Respiratory disorders	542	514	507	516
	Genito-urinary disorders	231	229	225	230
	Blood and blood forming organs	68	57	51	57
	Skin disorders	31	35	36	42
	Digestive system disorders	132	128	141	124
	Nervous system disorders	717	709	732	730
	Cardio-vascular disorders	953	911	854	802
	Immune system disorders	52	50	44	37
	Metabolic & endocrine disorders	538	510	468	433
	Psychological, psychiatric, and substance abuse	3,571	3,701	4,040	4,276
	Intellectual disability	354	356	353	373
	Sensory disorders	272	262	267	280
	Accident	496	467	454	444
Other	134	152	174	196	
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,949</b>	<b>9,920</b>	<b>10,249</b>	<b>10,413</b>
No Benefit	Not applicable	14,433	14,820	14,125	13,840
Other Benefit	Not applicable	34,332	34,457	35,624	36,975
<b>Total</b>		<b>63,363</b>	<b>63,845</b>	<b>65,188</b>	<b>66,772</b>

Note:

- Other benefit Includes Supported Living Payment Carers, Jobseeker Support, Non Beneficiaries, Sole Parent Support, New Zealand Superannuation, Veterans Pension, Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment clients