



4 DEC 2019

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

On 13 September 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information for the Waitaki District:

1. *Public houses owned by Housing New Zealand.*
2. *The number of beneficiaries receiving an accommodation supplement.*
3. *The average weekly amount of accommodation supplements per beneficiary.*
4. *The total weekly accommodation supplement amount.*
5. *The number of beneficiaries receiving TAS (temporary additional support).*
6. *The average weekly amount of TAS per beneficiary.*
7. *The total weekly TAS amount.*
8. *The total available transitional housing places available.*
9. *The number of people on the wait list for the Social Housing Register.*
10. *The average wait time for people applying for Social Housing from when they put their name on the wait list to when they received a house.*
11. *Total amount granted annually for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants.*
12. *Total number of beneficiaries/clients in Emergency Accommodation.*

As the Ministry has addressed all other questions in the previous response sent to you 1 November 2019, this response will address the following questions in turn:

- *The total available transitional housing places available.*
- *The number of people on the wait list for the Social Housing Register.*
- *The average wait time for people applying for Social Housing from when they put their name on the wait list to when they received a house.*

### **Transitional Housing**

More people are approaching the Ministry for assistance with accommodation than ever before. This is why Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working with Kāinga Ora (previously known as Housing New Zealand), Community Housing Providers and the wider housing sector to increase the supply of public housing by an additional 6,400 places by June 2022. While HUD brings on additional public housing places, transitional housing will support people who urgently need housing in the meantime.

Since its establishment on 1 October 2018, HUD has assumed responsibility for contracting providers for the purpose of increasing transitional housing supply. The Ministry continues to have key involvement in the administration of these contracts.

- *The total available transitional housing places available*

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Transitional housing provides warm, safe and dry short-term accommodation and tailored housing related support services. Families and individuals typically stay in transitional housing for 12 weeks, or more if necessary. In most cases, they receive a further 12 weeks of support services once they've found stable housing. Of the 2,989 transitional housing places secured for tenanting nationwide, as at 31 August 2019, one 3-bedroom house was in the Waitaki District with an additional 304 transitional housing places in the wider Canterbury region.

### Social Housing Register

- *The number of people on the wait list for the Social Housing Register.*
- *The average wait time for people applying for Social Housing from when they put their name on the wait list to when they received a house.*

The Social Housing Register is made up of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register. The Housing Register is prioritised by need and consists of applicants who have been assessed as being eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register is made up of people already in public housing, but who have requested and are eligible for a transfer to another property. The Ministry took over management of the Social Housing Register from April 2014.

Table One shows the demand for public housing in the Waitaki District and wider Canterbury region by Housing and Transfer Registers, as at 31 August 2019.

**Table One: Public Housing Register in Waitaki District and all Canterbury, as at end of August 2019**

Location of Current Residence	Housing Register	Transfer Register
Waitaki District	S	S
<b>Total Canterbury Region</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>258</b>

#### Notes:

- This shows Priority A and B register applications only.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of the period.

In order to protect the privacy of individuals, counts of five or less supplied in the table have been suppressed and represented by 'S'. Secondary rules have also been applied where required. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information may risk identifying the individuals. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The length of time an application remains on the Public Housing Register can be dependent on a number of reasons. For example, an applicant may have specific preferences or requirements about where they need to be housed, have had a change

in circumstances while they are on the Public Housing Register, or seek housing in areas which have high demand.

In the year to 30 June 2019, 18 applications were housed from the Public Housing Register in the Waitaki District. The mean number of days to house those applications were 43, while the median number of days were 34.

It may also be of interest that, for the same period, 1,298 applications were housed from the Public Housing Register in the wider Canterbury region. The mean number of days to house those applications were 121, while the median number of days were 69. Mean is an average of a set of numbers and median is the central value of a set of numbers.

Further information on the housing supports provided in the Waitaki District can be found as part the most recent Canterbury Factsheet which is available on HUD's website here: [www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/](http://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/). I would like to extend my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

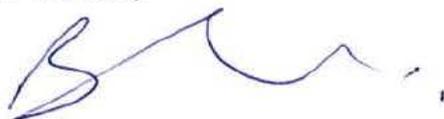
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 and attachments 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 information for Waitaki District, 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



Bridget Saunders  
**Acting Manager, Issue Resolution Service Delivery**