



15 MAR 2019



Dear 

On 19 December 2018 you emailed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information relating public housing in Rotorua.

On 25 January 2019, the following questions were transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry):

- *How many of our state houses were filled by people from outside Rotorua this year?*
- *Where did they come from? Rotorua vs the wider BoP region vs rest of the country?*

To be placed on the Housing Register, the Ministry asks clients about their situation, current circumstances and the type of housing they need. This includes the areas they need to live so they can be matched to a suitable property. The household needs to specify at least three areas, unless they have a good and sufficient reason for selecting fewer, but these areas could be anywhere in the country. This means households can be matched to any suitable properties in New Zealand regardless of their current location. For example, an applicant currently living outside Rotorua may need to be housed inside Rotorua to be closer to required medical services.

To answer your request, the Ministry has identified those applicants who have been housed in the Rotorua District during the period October 2017 to September 2018 and considered their previous address.

During this period, 59 housing placements were made in the Rotorua District. Of which, 46 households were previously in the Rotorua District, five were from other Territorial Authorities within the Bay of Plenty region and eight were from elsewhere in the North Island.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding social housing in Rotorua, 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



Cassandra Wise
Team Manager Issue Resolution