



01 JUL 2020

Dear

On 4 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Statistics on the number of people in social housing in NZ and their demographics.

Public (social) houses are properties rented out by Kāinga Ora (previously Housing New Zealand) and other Community Housing Providers (CHPs). The properties can be tenanted by people who are assessed as eligible by the Ministry.

The Ministry assesses the eligibility of individuals for public housing and manage the Housing Register and Emergency Housing. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) manages public housing and monitor community housing providers.

Public housing applicants must have a serious housing need as well as meet a number of requirements to be eligible for public housing, such as, but not limited to:

- Being lawfully resident and ordinarily living in New Zealand with a period of prior residence in New Zealand
- Aged 16 years or older
- Have a low income and little or no cash assets

Further information about eligibility is available on the Ministry's Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/index.html.

It is important to note that other members of a household do not need to meet the same criteria as long as they can show that they are either a dependent child or have a specific and established on-going need to be a member of the household. For example, this refers to a couple where one partner does not meet the residency criteria, or an elderly parent or grandparents or a carer or support person.

Further information about household composition can be found on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/household-composition-01.html.

The tables below provide public housing demographics as at 31 March 2020, broken down by age group of the primary tenant, gender of the primary tenant, ethnicity of

the primary tenant, household type (adults, children), and the number of people in a household.

Table 1: Number of public housing tenancies, broken down by age group of the primary tenant.

Age group	Total
24 and under	1,859
25-39	16,647
40-54	21,682
55-64	14,166
65 and over	15,197
Total	69,551

Table 2: Number of public housing tenancies, broken down by gender of the primary tenant.

Gender	Total
Gender diverse	7
Male	21,025
Female	48,519
Total	69,551

Table 3: Number of public housing tenancies, broken down by ethnicity of the primary tenant.

Ethnicity	Total
Māori	25,762
NZ European	16,301
Other	10,004
Pacific Island	16,165
Unspecified	1,319
Total	69,551

Table 4: Number of public housing tenancies, broken down by household type.

Household type		Total
1 Adult	No children	23,360
	1 child	5,985
	2+ children	11,256
2 Adults	No children	8,276
	1 child	3,178
	2+ children	7,572
3+ adults	No children	4,076
	1 child	2,202
	2+ children	3,646
Total		69,551

Table 5: Number of public housing tenancies, broken down by number of people in a household.

Number of people in a household	Total
1	23,359
2	14,260
3	10,764
4	8,342
5	5,760
6	3,491
7	1,879
8	935
9	432
10	192
11	77
12	31
13	13
14	7
15 or more	S
Not specified	S
Total	69,551

Notes:

- Please note the ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry. The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct. While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).
- The household type is derived from the number of adults and children included in the tenancy.

In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. In order to protect client privacy, some numbers have been suppressed. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the 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
- 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. 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding statistics on the number of people in social housing in NZ and their demographics, 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



Karen Hocking
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Housing