



08 OCT 2020

Tēnā koe

On 3 September 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *the total number of IRRS tenancies in NZ and then Auckland, Northland, Waikato, Coromandel and Taranaki*
- *how many people over 65 are in IRRS tenancies for those same areas?*

Income Related Rent (IRR) is the subsidised rent scheme for public housing tenants with low incomes. The rate of IRR is calculated based on a household's assessable income and their household type. The Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS) is the portion paid by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is the difference between the calculated IRR for the client's household and the approved market rent rate. Further information regarding IRRS is available on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/income-related-rent-subsidy/introduction.html.

In regard to your request for the number of IRRS tenancies in New Zealand and in specific regions, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is publicly available. Data about IRRS tenancies is released by HUD through their public housing quarterly reports, which are published on their website. The reports track the progress of public housing, transitional housing supply, homelessness programmes and other housing support. HUD provides both nationwide data and data broken down by region. Please find the reports at the following link: www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/.

In regard to your request for the number of people over 65 years old who are in IRRS tenancies, please find **Table One** in the **Appendix**, showing the number of IRRS tenancies where the primary tenant is aged 65 years old or older as at the end of June 2020, broken down by region.

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. 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 about IRRS tenancies with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Hocking', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking
General Manager
Housing

Appendix

Table One: Number of IRRS tenancies where the primary tenant is aged 65 years old or older as at the end of June 2020, broken down by region

Housing Region	Number
Auckland	7,604
Bay of Plenty	571
Canterbury	1,686
Central	478
East Coast	735
Northland	425
Southern	410
Taranaki	279
Unknown/Other	14
Waikato	983
Wellington	1,869
West Coast Tasman	346
Total	15,400

Notes:

- IRRS includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies
- The Ministry has made improvements to the reporting of this data and as such, some numbers may differ from those previously published
- Clients in Public Housing either pay market rent or IRR
- Housing Region is based off the tenancy address and grouped according to HUD
- These regions have different geographic boundaries to Ministry regions and are not comparable to them
- Unknown/Other Housing Regions are ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a region