



06 JUL 2021

Tēnā koe

On 31 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How much of NZ's public sector housing stock qualifies as accessible housing and/or is built to universal design standards?*
- *(It would also be interesting to know how much of NZ's housing stock overall is accessible, if possible.)*
- *I understand that Kainga Ora has an accessibility policy which commits to ensuring that 15% of new homes built meet universal design standards. I was just wondering how that policy was tracking? Of the new builds since the policy was adopted in 2019 how many meet universal design standards?*
- *How many applications are there for accessible housing? Is there a waiting list for it and, if so, what are the numbers?*

On 31 May 2021, your request was transferred to Kāinga Ora for response.

On 2 June 2021, your request was partially transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for response. The information to which your request relates, namely your fourth question, is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry. You will hear further from Kāinga Ora concerning your other three questions.

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing, and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The Housing Register shows people who are not currently in public housing but who have been assessed as eligible for public housing. The Transfer Register shows people already in public housing but who have applied to be rehoused. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (The Register). While the Ministry do the housing assessments which inform the Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Kāinga Ora respectively. More information about the Housing Register is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/index.html.

Each housing application is given a priority rating based on the Ministry's assessment of housing need, and all applications are measured against the same criteria to determine that priority rating. Applicants who are assessed as at risk (Priority A) or as having a serious housing need (Priority B) are placed on the Register until a house

becomes available. As at 31 March 2021, there are 23,687 applicants on the Register in total. The Ministry's role is to assess people's needs for public housing and if they or a family member needs a modified home in order to make it accessible for people with disabilities, we capture that as part of the assessment process. Clients who are on the Register will be contacted on a regular basis to confirm their circumstances and are referred to public housing providers when suitable properties become available.

I can confirm that there is no specific waiting list for modified properties. However, we are able to extract the number of applicants on the Register who tell us they require a modified property. Please see **Table One**, attached in the **Appendix**, showing the number of applicants requesting a modified property on the Register as at the end of March 2021, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA).

It is important to note that the Ministry cannot breakdown data smaller than TLA as this information is held on individual case files.

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 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.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Hocking', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking
**General Manager
Housing**

Appendix

Table One: Number of applicants requesting a modified property on the Register as at the end of March 2021, broken down by Territorial Local Authority.

TLA by Quarter Ending	Number of applicants
ASHBURTON DISTRICT	S
AUCKLAND SUPER CITY	480
CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT	S
CHRISTCHURCH CITY	60
DUNEDIN CITY	12
FAR NORTH DISTRICT	24
GISBORNE DISTRICT	21
GREY DISTRICT	S
HAMILTON CITY	78
HASTINGS DISTRICT	27
HAURAKI DISTRICT	S
HOROWHENUA DISTRICT	12
INVERCARGILL CITY	S
KAIPARA DISTRICT	S
KAPITI COAST DISTRICT	9
LOWER HUTT CITY	42
MANAWATU DISTRICT	15
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT	S
MASTERTON DISTRICT	6
MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT	S
NAPIER CITY	36
NELSON CITY	6
NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT	36
OPOTIKI DISTRICT	S
OTOROHANGA DISTRICT	S
PALMERSTON NORTH CITY	72
PORIRUA CITY	27
QUEENSTOWN-LAKES DISTRICT	S
ROTORUA DISTRICT	18
RUAPEHU DISTRICT	S
SELWYN DISTRICT	S
SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT	9
SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT	S
SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT	S

TLA by Quarter Ending	Number of applicants
STRATFORD DISTRICT	S
TASMAN DISTRICT	S
TAUPO DISTRICT	9
TAURANGA CITY	30
THAMES-COROMANDEL DISTRICT	S
TIMARU DISTRICT	6
UNKNOWN/OTHER	S
UPPER HUTT CITY	15
WAIKATO DISTRICT	9
WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT	S
WAIPA DISTRICT	6
WAIROA DISTRICT	S
WAITAKI DISTRICT	S
WAITOMO DISTRICT	S
WELLINGTON CITY	36
WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT	9
WHAKATANE DISTRICT	18
WHANGANUI DISTRICT	39
WHANGAREI DISTRICT	33
Total	1,254

Notes for Table One:

- The Register consists of the Housing Register and the Transfer Register.
- Territorial Local Authority (TLA) is estimated based on the clients address at the time of application.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table. A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. The published counts will never differ by more than 2 counts.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.