



22 April 2022

Tēnā koe

On 18 March 2022, you emailed Kāinga Ora requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Emergency housing requests for the territorial authority of Ruapehu from 2018 to March 2022.*
- 2. Documentation, correspondence and statistics around how many state houses were sold and/or removed out of district in the last ten years.*
- 3. All correspondence and documents pertaining to emergency housing needs in Ruapehu and plans to address them.*
- 4. Current Kāinga Ora budget to address emergency and long-term housing needs for Ruapehu.*
- 5. All and any statistics, correspondence and documentation around severe housing deprivation and homelessness in Ruapehu.*

On 23 March 2022, your request was transferred in part to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for response as the information is more closely aligned to our responsibilities and functions. As such, questions one and three of your request was transferred to the Ministry.

In regard to question one, please see **Table One**, within the attached Excel spreadsheet, which outlines the number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the Ruapehu Territorial Local Authority between 1 January 2018 and 31 March 2022, by quarter.

Furthermore, the Ministry has not produced any specific reports or documents around 'emergency housing need' in the Ruapehu area, therefore, question three of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

The Ministry does likely hold correspondence on around various client interactions in Ruapehu in connection in EH. However, this information is held on individual client files or in specific emails held by individuals. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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 emergency housing in Ruapehu, 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


Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**