



31 January 2022

Tēnā koe

On 14 December 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. How many people are on the housing New Zealand waiting list.*
- 2. How many people are in emergency housing in Gisborne.*
- 3. How many new homes/apartments are been built here in Gisborne.*

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.

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will address each of your questions in turn:

- 1. How many people are on the housing New Zealand waiting list.*

When New Zealanders are in need of public housing, their needs are recorded on either the Housing Register or the Transfer Register. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register. The Housing Register records those who are not currently in Public Housing but who have been assessed as eligible for Public Housing. The Transfer Register represents those already in Public Housing who are eligible to be rehoused, generally due to a change in circumstances prompting a move to somewhere more appropriate to their needs.

Information about the number of people on the Public Housing Register can be found in the Public Housing Quarterly Report for September 2021 at the following link (pages 10 and 11): [www.hud.govt.nz/assets/News-and-Resources/Statistics-and-Research/Public-housing-reports/Quarterly-reports/Public-housing-quarterly-report-September-2021.pdf](http://www.hud.govt.nz/assets/News-and-Resources/Statistics-and-Research/Public-housing-reports/Quarterly-reports/Public-housing-quarterly-report-September-2021.pdf).

The figures for the December 2021 quarter are due to be published on the same website soon.

As this information is already publicly available, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

*2. How many people are in emergency housing in Gisborne.*

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's need.

Information about the number of households supported by EH SNGs in Gisborne can be found in the Public Housing in East Coast Region factsheet for September 2021 at the following link (page 4): [www.hud.govt.nz/assets/News-and-Resources/Statistics-and-Research/Public-housing-reports/Regional-factsheets-September-2021/Housing-regional-factsheets-September-2021-East-Coast.pdf](http://www.hud.govt.nz/assets/News-and-Resources/Statistics-and-Research/Public-housing-reports/Regional-factsheets-September-2021/Housing-regional-factsheets-September-2021-East-Coast.pdf). Please note that this information relates to the number of distinct clients who have been granted EH SNGs, and does not necessarily reflect the total number of people in each household supported by emergency housing.

The figures for the December 2021 quarter are due to be published on the same website soon.

As this information is already publicly available, this part of your request has also been refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

*3. How many new homes/apartments are been built here in Gisborne.*

On 21 December 2021 the Ministry contacted you advising that question three of your request relating to the number of new homes and apartments being built in Gisborne was transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the information is more closely connected with the functions of HUD. You can expect a response from them in due course.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding housing in Gisborne, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Karen Hocking  
**Group General Manager  
Housing**