



1 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 20 January 2023, your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) was transferred in part from Kāinga Ora to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry). You requested the following information:

- *How many people are on the Kainga Ora wait list for properties in Katikati?*

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 need 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 who have applied to be rehoused. The combined register is referred to as the Public Housing Register (the Register). While the Ministry completes housing assessments which inform the Register, responsibility for funding and supply sits with the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development and Kainga Ora, respectively.

The Register is dynamic rather than static, and it changes as people's circumstances and situations change. Placing people and families into houses is about matching them with the right house in the area they want to live. This includes ensuring the family has the right number of bedrooms, is close to essential services such as schools, and that the accommodation meets any disability needs if appropriate. Those assessed as having greater need for housing will be prioritised higher. As people's needs change, their priority on the Register may change also. As such, the length of time spent on the Register awaiting housing can vary significantly.

Further information regarding the assessment of a client's housing need, housing need priority ratings and the calculation of overall priority ratings

can be found on the Work and Income website, here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/social-housing/assessment-of-eligibility/assessment-of-housing-need-01.html)

The Ministry publishes quarterly Housing Register data which contains Territorial Local Authority (TLA) breakdowns of where clients are residing at the time of their application. This data can be found here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html)

As outlined in the Ministry's email of 2 February 2023, the TLA breakdown for the Western Bay of Plenty District is the closest information we can provide for Katikati, for clients' locations at the time of their application for the Register. In order to provide you with the level of detail that you have requested, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of individual client 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.

When clients apply for Public Housing, they advise the Ministry of letting areas that they would prefer to be placed in. In the spirit of being helpful I am able to provide you with the number of clients on the Register who have selected Katikati as an area they wish to be placed in. Please refer to **Table One** below.

Please note, this information is based off letting area postcodes for Katikati and a client may request multiple letting areas. Therefore, the sum of clients in each letting area will not equal the total number of distinct clients.

**Table One:** Number of primary clients on the Register who have nominated the Katikati letting area in Western Bay of Plenty district, as at 31 December 2022.

<b>Territorial Local Authority</b>	<b>Letting area postcode</b>	<b>Number of primary clients</b>
<b>Western Bay of Plenty District</b>	<b>3129</b>	15
	<b>3170</b>	15
	<b>3177</b>	18
	<b>3178</b>	15

<b>Territorial Local Authority</b>	<b>Letting area postcode</b>	<b>Number of primary clients</b>
	<b>3181</b>	15
	<b>Total in Katikati</b>	<b>18</b>

**Notes:**

- This table includes priority A and priority B applications.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry 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.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to 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 two counts.

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'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 Register applicants, 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



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