



s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

On 11 December 2025 Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) received your request for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Specifically for the Opotiki District: TH referrals, declines and placements

This part of your request was transferred to the Ministry by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) because the information requested aligns more closely with the functions of this agency.

When MSD is approached by someone with an immediate high housing need, they will try to ensure that person has a safe place to stay. One of the options MSD has in this is providing referral to Transitional Housing providers contracted to the Ministry.

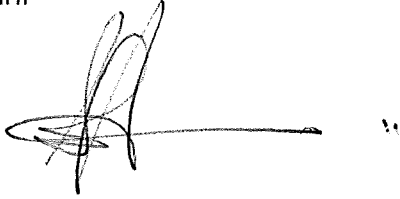
MSD does not maintain a formal waitlist of referrals supported by Transitional Housing providers and awaiting placement opportunities. Finding the information requested would require a review of individual client files. We are, therefore, refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act on the grounds that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The Transitional Housing service is provided for the Ministry in Ōpōtiki by the Whakaatu Whanaunga Trust. The Trust currently operates ten Transitional Housing places in Ōpōtiki since the service started in 2020, and the Ministry did not contract with providers prior to then. There were 19 households supported by this service in 2025, 11 of which have left the service. Of those 11 households, one was placed in a private rental, eight went into social housing and the remaining two left for other unspecified reasons.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

As part of our ongoing commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the public. As such, this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on our website.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Stevenson
Director, Waikato and Bay of Plenty
Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development