



9 April 2026

HUD2026-009368

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email dated 9 March 2026 to Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 10 March 2026, you clarified that you were seeking information produced since 1 January 2026.

I will respond to each part of your request as follows:

*All advice, briefings, or correspondence provided by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to ministers and/or their offices regarding the proposed move-on order powers announced in February 2026, including any advice relating to housing instability concerns.*

Six documents have been identified as in scope of this part of your request. I am refusing to release eight documents under section 18(d) of the Act, on the grounds that they will soon be publicly available. The Ministry is currently preparing our Weekly Reports for publication on our website, and they will soon be available at: [www.hud.govt.nz/about-us/open-government-and-official-information-requests](http://www.hud.govt.nz/about-us/open-government-and-official-information-requests).

The remaining two documents are released to you with some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

Section of Act	Reason to withhold
9(2)(a)	To protect the privacy of natural persons.
18(d)	That the information requested is or will soon be publicly available

The documents are detailed in the attached document schedule.

*Any analysis or modelling prepared by MHUD regarding the likely impact of move-on orders on people experiencing rough sleeping or housing instability, including where such people may be displaced to.*

*Any advice prepared by MHUD on alternative or complementary policy options to move-on orders for addressing rough sleeping.*

*Any record of agencies or iwi consulted during the policy development process, and summaries of their feedback.*

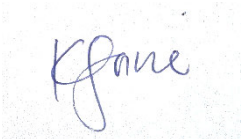
I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

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](http://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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Garvie', is placed over a light grey rectangular background.

Kate Garvie

**Policy Manager Responding to Severe Housing Need**  
**Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development**

**Annex A: Document schedule**

<b>Documents in scope – HUD2026-009368</b>			
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Section of the Act applied</b>
1.	23 January 2026	HUD Weekly Report Friday 23 January 2026	Refused under section 18(d)
2.	30 January 2026	HUD Weekly Report Friday 30 January 2026	Refused under section 18(d)
3.	21 February 2026 11:42 AM	FW: Back-pocket Q&A - Move-on orders (Housing only)	9(2)(a) 18(d)
4.	22 February 2026	Move-on order announcement - 22 February 2025: Reactive questions and answers (not for publication)	N/A
5.	27 February 2026	HUD Weekly Report Friday 27 February 2026	Refused under section 18(d)
6.	5 March 2026	HUD Weekly Report Friday 5 March 2026	Refused under section 18(d)

**From:** [Tony Wallace](#)  
**To:** [Kate Garvie](#); [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#); [Jeremy Steele](#); [Rebekah Hood](#); [Richard D'Ath-Lourens](#); [Andrew Gregory](#); [Charles Mabbett](#); [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#); [DL - OP - Government Services](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Back-pocket Q&A - Move-on orders (Housing only)  
**Date:** Sunday, 22 February 2026 11:42:41 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image007.jpg](#)  
[Move-on orders \(back pocket Q&A for Ministers\).docx](#)  
[HUD2026-009179 Weekly report - 20 February 2026.docx](#)  
[EMBARGOED Move-on orders to target disorderly behaviour.msg](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image008.jpg](#)  
[image009.png](#)

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Morena

Apologies for interrupting your Sunday! Announcement was made at 11am by Justice and Police Ministers

See email sent to Minister this morning. A few points to note

1. The Q&A are back-pocket only.
2. The Minister's version of the Q&A is clean, without comments as it incorporates feedback. I have our working version [here](#) which is currently precisely the same text as the Minister's version, but with some of the comments included to ensure we can track progress. Please use this as our working version if we need to add or amend it this week.
3. In terms of progress figures for Housing First delivery, etc the document refers to the Weekly report, which as confirmed by Delivery, is the one source of truth on figures. Olivia and the office are clear on this, we had a brief chat this morning.
4. I wouldn't expect much media focus on the housing implications until later (probably tomorrow onwards). I will alert you to any media enquiries as we will need your support to provide answers.
5. Comms will provide a housing related media summary tomorrow morning if needed.
6. I'm also sharing the document with MSD on an fyi basis.

Talk tomorrow.

Tony.

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

**From:** Tony Wallace

**Sent:** Sunday, 22 February 2026 11:22 am

**To:** Olivia Burnett (Guest) <[olivia.burnett@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:olivia.burnett@parliament.govt.nz)>; David Chau

<david.chau@parliament.govt.nz>; Euan Alexander <euan.alexander@parliament.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Richard D'Ath-Lourens <Richard.DAth-Lourens@hud.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Back-pocket Q&A - Move-on orders (Housing only)

Kia ora Olivia, David and Euan (in David's absence)

See some back-pocket Q&A for the move-on orders that are not intended for publication, rather to assist with housing related media or stakeholder questions.

These are Housing related only, bearing in mind that Justice and Police are the leads on the announcement. I'm around if you need any support and we'll progress media enquiries as needed.

I have also provided the latest Weekly report for the progress update on short-term actions to reduce homelessness. As you're aware this is the up-to-date authoritative data, if you are using figures then refer to the Weekly report (attached) and if you have any questions please check in with Delivery and Media.

PR form this morning also attached.

Comms will provide a summary of any housing related media coverage tomorrow

**See text below regarding advice from MSD and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development** -note any questions regarding this are best directed to Policy. 😊

We'll be around of course from the time of the proposed announcement on Sunday to support you as needed (not expecting much or anything until Monday through). We will update the document based on any new issues emerging.

Regards

Tony.

*Joint comment of Ministries of Social Development and Housing and Urban Development*

1. HUD and MSD think there are significant issues with the paper in its current form. The proposal could potentially cause further harm to people experiencing homelessness, by distancing them from essential support services, networks and accommodation options. It would effectively criminalise them, as breaching a move-on order may be necessary to access services or somewhere safe to sleep. This approach could therefore compromise, rather than supplement, recent Government investment in homelessness supports.

2. It is not clear that move-on orders are required for public safety or will be effective in preventing disruptive or harmful events from occurring. There is limited detail and supporting evidence provided, such as data on which populations are engaging in disorderly behaviour (several different groups can be the perpetrators) or evidence, including international evidence, on the effectiveness of the proposed interventions.
3. HUD and MSD are concerned that the offence and penalty proposed is disproportionate to the problem and will burden those least able to pay with unsustainable debt to government (costs will primarily fall on those issued with move-on orders, and public services. The approach may risk causing further harm to people experiencing homelessness, including making it harder for them to get housing. These risks could be mitigated if non-compliance were made an infringement rather than summary offence, in keeping with severity and potential impact.
4. HUD and MSD recommend excluding survival behaviours for homelessness (i.e. rough sleeping and begging) from the scope of move-on orders, and that this is reflected across all proposed safeguards. Safeguards will be important given risks stemming from the subjective judgements that will be required, such as on what is a 'reasonable excuse' for someone not complying with a move-on order, or what is reasonably likely to cause 'anxiety'. *[Note this comment on causing anxiety reflects an earlier version of the proposal.]* Safeguards should include preventing exclusion from access to support, essential services, or where people stay or live.
5. HUD and MSD note the need for robust consideration of possible implications and mitigations for specific groups who may be disproportionately impacted (e.g. Māori, Pacific, youth aged 14 and over, disabled people, people with mental health needs, and people experiencing poverty and/or addiction).
6. Social services to respond to homelessness and rough sleepers, and address the underlying issues, have been shown to be effective in international studies.

## **Tony Wallace**

Manager Communications | Organisational Performance  
Waea: +64 4 832 2508 | Mobile: S 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
[www.hud.govt.nz](http://www.hud.govt.nz) | Level 6, 7 Waterloo Quay, Pipitea, Wellington  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/tony-wallace-04a4118/>

*All media requests are requests for official information under the Official Information Act 1982. For more information on how HUD treats these requests, please visit our website: [OIA and media responses](#)*

Press Release: *Move-on orders to target disorderly behaviour* available at:  
[www.beehive.govt.nz/release/move-orders-target-disorderly-behaviour](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/move-orders-target-disorderly-behaviour)

*HUD2026-009179: Weekly Report - 20 February 2026* refused under section  
18(d)



# **Move-on order announcement - 22 February 2025**

## **Reactive questions and answers (not for publication)**

### **Note**

1. The move-on orders announcement is scheduled to be delivered by the Minister of Justice on Sunday 22 February. The agency lead is the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is responsible for housing implications of the announcement and housing and homelessness policy.
2. The attached questions and answers are relevant for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development only. Where required, we will consult with other agencies if information from the questions and answers is communicated to media or stakeholders.
3. Questions are included here, on the basis that they might be directed to us but are not our agency responsibility. Where this is the case the agency that needs to answer is specified.
4. If specific media enquiries are addressed to Ministers office or agencies usual approval processes will apply.

### **Questions and answers**

*General questions provide context. Any additional requests for information need to be directed to - and answered by - the appropriate agency.*

### **General questions**

#### **Why are move-on orders being introduced?**

There are growing concerns about both increases in rough sleeping and perceived increases in anti-social and disorderly behaviour in public spaces.

Our advice has been that while rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour can share some of the same underlying causes, they do not always overlap. When anti-social

behaviours do occur, police data indicates that rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness are often victims of crime.

**Who was consulted on the development of the move-on orders?**

The following agencies were consulted on the paper: Crown Law Office, Department of Corrections, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, New Zealand Police, Department of Internal Affairs, Office of the Privacy Commissioner, Treasury, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and Oranga Tamariki.

**Has HUD been involved in the development of move-on orders?**

HUD has been working with MSD to provide feedback on the development of potential tools to address anti-social behaviour, including move-on orders.

Our advice has been that while rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour can share some of the same underlying causes, they should not be conflated with anti-social behaviours such as threatening behaviour and wilful damage. Rough sleeping and homelessness is best addressed through collaborative place-based approaches between councils, service providers, iwi/Māori, and relevant government agencies.

Our advice has also noted that people experiencing homelessness should be afforded equal access to public spaces, particularly where no thresholds for anti-social or disorderly behaviour have been met.

Where possible, HUD will continue to work with MSD and MoJ to promote mitigations and reduce potential impacts on people experiencing rough sleeping and homelessness.

**Is this just for Auckland?**

Move-on orders will apply nationally. While rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour has been received more publicity and profile it is not only an Auckland issue.

**Who will be moved on?**

The scope of move on legislation can be answered by the Minister of Justice.

**Are move-on orders criminalising homelessness? (Refer Ministry of Justice)**

**Is someone sleeping in a doorway, considered anti-social behaviour? (Refer Ministry of Justice)**

**Is someone who is street-begging (who may not be rough-sleeping) likely to be moved-on? (Refer Ministry of Justice)**

**What happens to rough-sleepers 18-years and under? Will they be moved-on, or will child support services become involved? (Refer Ministry of Justice)**

**Will homelessness support services providers, be accompanying Police? (HUD)**

**What happens if a rough-sleeper, resists being moved-on? (Refer Ministry of Justice)**

**What prevents someone who has been moved-on, returning shortly thereafter? (Refer Ministry of Justice)**

## **Housing related questions – Auckland**

**How well does HUD understand the numbers of homelessness and rough-sleeping in Auckland?**

The most robust estimates of homelessness and rough sleeping are severe housing deprivation estimates from the five-yearly Census.

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is collaborating with Stats NZ, councils and providers to improve access to timely, consistent homelessness data. While this work progresses, the Homelessness Insights report draws on multiple different types and sources of data to identify potential trends and drivers of these.

Auckland Council's quarterly update shows that on 30 September 2025, six outreach providers had engaged with 940 people who were known to be sleeping in cars, streets and local parks, up from 809 on 30 May this year and 426 on 30 September 2024. Auckland Council's providers say the numbers they report are likely lower than the actual number of homeless people, because many are living in cars, moving around often or staying out of sight.

**What are the views of Auckland's homelessness support services (Auckland City Mission, Kickback)?**

Auckland's homelessness support services have a range of views about the effectiveness of move-on orders. HUD works with them to support community housing solutions including moving people into safe, secure housing.

**What action are being taken to support rough sleepers and homeless into more stable housing?**

In November last year the Government released an action plan, for Auckland, to ensure people in housing need are supported while restoring confidence and order in Auckland city.

The action plan is coordinated by several government agencies - the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry for Social Development, Police, Health New Zealand, the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment – and the Auckland City Council.

The specific housing actions, announced in November, applying in Auckland and nationally are:

- **Housing for rough sleepers** – 300 new social homes for people already receiving support through Housing First deliver better local responses.

(As at 18 February 2026, providers have signed 205 lease agreements with landlords, an increase of six from the previous weekly report of 13 February 2026 and 196 tenancies have commenced (in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch), an increase of 24). Ref: **Weekly Report Minister of Housing and Associate Minister of Housing 20 February 2026.**

- **Supporting housing providers to deliver** – the Government is providing \$10 million to support providers for people living without shelter or at risk in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch.
- **Improving existing programmes and support** – working together with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is taking action to make the most out of our existing programmes and support by:
  - rebalancing transitional housing places to better match support services with the needs of rough sleepers, reducing turnaround times between households
  - strengthening guidance for staff on using discretion in assessing emergency housing grants.
  - continuing to support clients to get into suitable accommodation, including a redirection of benefit for accommodation costs.

Further information on progress of these actions is included in the latest Weekly report: *Progress update on short-term actions to reduce homelessness* section.

## **Housing related questions – Auckland and rest of New Zealand**

### **Is homelessness increasing in New Zealand?**

Homelessness, particularly the numbers of people living without shelter, remains a challenge across the country. The latest Homelessness Insights report tells us some areas have continued to see an increase in people living without shelter, while for other areas this may have stabilised or decreased a little.

### **What does the latest Homelessness Insights Report tell us?**

See above.

### **How does this issue affect Māori, youth, and the Rainbow community?**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is working with the Ministry of Justice to promote mitigations for specific groups who may be disproportionately impacted.

Māori make up a disproportionate amount of the rough-sleeping population. There is a risk Māori could receive more move-on orders than other ethnicities for survival behaviours related to rough-sleeping.

### **Does Housing First have enough places in the programme to support moved-on rough sleepers?**

The Government is providing funding for 300 social housing places for people already getting support through Housing First. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development will continue to work with providers to build existing services, address gaps and help deliver a better local response.

Ref: **Weekly Report Minister of Housing and Associate Minister of Housing 20 February 2026 (see above)**

### **What is the cause of rough sleeping in some of our cities?**

The causes of rough sleeping and homelessness are complex and are a result of a range of inter-related factors including decades of under-investment in housing, uncoordinated planning and high land and housing prices.

### **Will move-on orders create more demand for housing?**

It is expected there will be an impact from move-on orders. The Government is working with community providers and to support people who have been rough sleeping.

### **Will the impacts on housing demand be monitored as a result of move on orders being implemented? (Refer MSD)**

### **What actions are being taken to support rough sleepers and homeless into more stable housing?**

The specific housing actions that apply nationally are:

- **Housing for rough sleepers** – 300 new social homes for people already receiving support through Housing First deliver better local responses.

*(As at 18 February 2026, providers have signed 205 lease agreements with landlords, an increase of six from the previous weekly report of 13 February 2026 and 196 tenancies have commenced (in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch), an increase of 24).* Ref: **Weekly Report Minister of Housing and Associate Minister of Housing 20 February 2026.**

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- strengthening guidance for staff on using discretion in assessing emergency housing grants.
- continuing to support clients to get into suitable accommodation, including a redirection of benefit for accommodation costs.

Further information on progress of these actions is included in the latest Weekly report: *Progress update on short-term actions to reduce homelessness* section.

**What actions are being taken to support Māori rough sleepers and homeless?**

HUD provides funding to Arohanui ki te Tangata, a collective of tangata whenua organisations, who are delivering seven kaupapa-Māori prototypes to address Māori housing challenges. They fill gaps of existing services in their delivery areas, providing tangata whenua-led solutions for unhoused whānau.

Procurement for the 300 new social homes in the November action plan includes two by-Māori for Māori-providers. These placements were in addition to the more than 2,000 existing Māori Housing First placements in September 2025.

**Is the number of rough-sleepers in the Auckland CBD a recent issue? (Refer Ministry of Justice)**

**Has the Government's tightening of access to Emergency Housing increased the number of rough-sleepers in Auckland? (Refer MSD)**

ends