



29 June 2020

DOIA19/20060424

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

I refer to your email of 20 May 2020 to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 29 May 2020, parts five to eight of your request were transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) for response. This response is in relation to those parts of your request.

- 5) *The numbers of individuals and families in Transitional housing.*
- 6) *The weekly or range of cost paid by ministry for TH.*
- 7) *The length of time spent in TH.*
- 8) *The current numbers of people in TH.*

This Government is seeing more people asking for help with accommodation than ever before. As you may be aware, Budget 2020 announced funding of \$570 million over the next four years to provide an extra 8,000 homes; approximately 6,000 public housing homes and 2,000 transitional homes. The Ministry will continue to work with Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities (Kāinga Ora), Community Housing Providers (CHPs) and the wider housing sector to achieve the Government's goal of increasing the supply of public and transitional housing.

Transitional housing provides warm, safe and dry short-term accommodation and tailored housing related support services. Families and individuals stay in transitional housing for around 12 weeks, or more if necessary. In most cases, they receive a further 12 weeks of support services once they have found a more permanent place to live.

Some information about transitional housing across New Zealand is regularly reported on, and details can be found on the Ministry's website as part of the most recent Public Housing Quarterly Report at www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/.

I note in part six of your request you asked for "*the weekly or range of cost paid by ministry for TH.*" Gathering the information to provide a weekly payment across all transitional housing places would involve a manual search and review of all payments to each provider, as well as their contracts to determine the number of places. However, the Ministry can provide you with the total spend to all transitional housing providers. This has been provided for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 May 2020 at a national level and for the Wellington region, which includes Upper Hutt.

Transitional Housing Spend	To 31 May 2020
National	\$118,669,332.71
Wellington	\$9,449,730.87

In relation to the remaining parts of your request, five, seven and eight, as you can appreciate, the Ministry has had to shift its immediate focus to the development of emergency policy and legislation in response to COVID-19. While we continue to work on responding to all requests made under the Act, those groups within the Ministry that provide this remaining information are being called on for extraordinary tasks, which are competing with their ability to provide input within usual timeframes.

I want to assure you that the Ministry will respond to your request as soon as practicable but ask that you bear with us in terms of the time it may take to provide you with a response. We are extending the timeframe of your request by 30 working days under section 15A(1)(a) of the Act, as the request necessitates a search through a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the department or the Minister of the Crown or the organisation. A response will be with you no later than 10 August 2020.

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 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.

Yours sincerely



Anne Shaw
Deputy Chief Executive
Housing Supply, Response, and Partnerships



DOIA19/20060424

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

I refer to my previous letter of 29 June 2020 partially answering a request you made under the Official Information Act 1982. This response answers the remaining parts of your request transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry):

- 5) *The numbers of individuals and families in Transitional housing.*
- 6) *The weekly or range of cost paid by ministry for TH.*
- 7) *The length of time spent in TH.*
- 8) *The current numbers of people in TH.*

In my 29 June 2020 letter, I responded to part six of your request and extended the timeframe for responding to these remaining parts of your request by 30 working days. This extension was required in order to allow sufficient time to process the most recent data and provide a more up-to-date response. Responses to each of the remaining parts of your request are provided below.

It should be noted that the information provided in this response is based on data collected from providers and reflects only what has been reported. It is important to note that some transitional housing places are non-reportable (ie. safehouse places) and places vacant or not available are also not included.

Reporting on occupancy in transitional housing is reliant on manual self-reporting by providers. In some cases, the data is not received in a timely manner or does not meet data quality standards so was not able to be included in this request. The information at issue is, but is not limited to, whether households left transitional housing or not.

For reasons noted above, as with any manually collected administrative data, we are aware that there are data quality and coverage issues, so please note that the figures provided do not provide the full picture as at May 2020. The Ministry works with all housing and service providers to continuously improve our data collection processes.

7) *The length of time spent in TH.*

The length of time in transitional housing is measured for a household, not an individual, and reflects the earliest date the household entered service, to the date they exited service (inclusive). For the purposes of transitional housing, a household consists of one or more people, so could be a single person, or a family.

For the year ending 31 May 2020, the average length of stay by households was 17.5 weeks. This covers households who exited transitional housing services in the period 1 June 2019 to 31 May 2020. Please note that length of stay is provided in weeks and is calculated at the exit of the stay.

- 5) The numbers of individuals and families in Transitional housing.**
8) The current numbers of people in TH.

It should be noted that a transitional housing place can house one household at a time, which as noted above, consists of one or more people, so a place equals one household.

For the period 1 May to 31 May 2020, 1,722 households were reported as receiving transitional housing services. In total, these households totalled 4,191 people. However, as noted above, this information is based on data reported by providers and does not provide the full picture for May 2020.

As at 31 May 2020, a total of 3,116 transitional housing places were contracted throughout New Zealand. The Ministry regularly publishes a series of resources that tracks progress, and shares data on public housing and transitional housing supply, homelessness programmes, and other housing support.

The Ministry's Housing Quarterly Reports and Public Housing Monthly Updates include the number of transitional housing places secured by the Ministry across New Zealand and in the regions. The quarterly Regional Housing Factsheets provide a closer look at housing in New Zealand's regions and provides information at Territorial Local Authority level (eg Upper Hutt City).

You can access these publications on the Ministry's website at www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/. The Ministry will continue to publish these resources every month and quarter.

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 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.

Yours sincerely



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