



19 November 2020

DOIA20/21100490

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email dated 15 October 2020 requesting data on Transitional Housing for single men in Christchurch. On 21 October 2020, you clarified your request to:

I am seeking information over a 12 month period (preferably broken into quarters) about how many single men were 1) applied for Transitional Housing and 2) how many single men were successful in their applications for transitional housing. In Christchurch only.

Transitional Housing provides warm, dry, short-term accommodation for people and families who don't have anywhere to live and have an urgent need for a place to stay. It includes support services to help people secure a longer-term home and get back on their feet so that they are in a stronger position to stay housed. Families and individuals stay in Transitional Housing while they are helped to find more permanent housing. In most cases, they receive a further 12 weeks support once they have found a more permanent place to live.

You asked for the number of single men applying for Transitional Housing, and the success rate of those applications. Most referrals for Transitional Housing are made by the Ministry of Social Development, rather than being self-referred. I have therefore provided you with data relating to those that *received* a Transitional Housing place in Christchurch, or that occupied a transitional housing place in Christchurch by quarter. This is as reported by contracted providers, and as noted in the caveat that follows.

Reporting on occupancy in transitional housing is reliant on self-reporting by providers. In some cases the data is not received by the Ministry in a timely manner or does not meet data quality standards so is unable to be included. The information at issue is, but is not limited to, whether households left transitional housing or not. For these reasons, as with any manually collected administrative data, we are aware that there are data quality and coverage issues. This means that the totals provided may result in an undercount and vary over time. They should therefore not be considered as the total number of single men in Transitional Housing. The Ministry is working with all housing and service providers to continuously improve our data collection processes.

Table one: Single men that received Transitional Housing or occupied a Transitional Housing Place in Christchurch in the 2019/2020 year

	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20	Jun-20
Number in the services across each quarter (i.e. within each three month period)	246	24	171	57

The variability of these figures reflects the data quality issues noted above. It is likely that the number of single men in Transitional Housing each quarter is closer to the number for the September 2019 quarter. This is because we received more complete reporting from providers for the September quarter than we did for other quarters.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry at OIA_Requests@hud.govt.nz.

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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Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships