



21 May 2021

DOIA20/21030551

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 29 March 2021 for a range of data and information on transitional housing.

Transitional housing is temporary accommodation and support for individuals or families who are in urgent need of housing. It provides warm, dry, short term housing for people and families who have an urgent need for a place to stay.

Whānau could be in this situation for a number of reasons, such as the place they were renting being sold, or where they can no longer stay with family. In addition to temporary accommodation, people in transitional housing are provided with support services to help them address their needs and move back into long-term accommodation.

We know that there is a lack of permanent accommodation for people and whanau which is why we are building more public, affordable and market housing. In the meantime, we are also conscious that more purpose built transitional housing is needed so that we can reduce the need for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, and ensure that people are appropriately supported with wrap around services until they find longer-term housing. That is why the government has made investments that will see 18,000 extra public and transitional homes made available by 2024.

I have grouped and responded to your questions in turn, providing data for 2019, 2020 and 2021. For some questions, we are unable to provide complete data for the years requested. Transitional housing data is based on information provided back to Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) from contracted providers. Reporting on this data requires significant manual processing which is currently underway. We expect to have more up to date data available in the next month.

As such, we have provided information for what is available by calendar year: 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, and 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 for some questions.

We are always looking to improve the quality and timeliness of our data and, under the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan, we are working to improve our data and evidence on homelessness. This includes working with providers to better understand the outcomes for people and whānau who use transitional housing and other housing support services.

How many people have been placed in transitional housing during this time (please break this down into location, individuals or households and by year)

Table 1 shows the number of households (a household can be comprised of one or more individuals) placed into transitional housing per year. One place can house one household – it is not the same as the number of bedrooms.

Table 1: Households placed in transitional housing

Region	2019 – full year	January to June 2020 Inclusive*
Northland	262	89
Auckland	2,570	877
Waikato	457	35
Bay of Plenty	324	119
East Coast	500	197
Central	207	149
Taranaki	28	6
Wellington	418	113
Nelson	85	49
Canterbury	672	186
Southern	191	85
Total	5,714	1,905

Note that placement of households into transitional housing in April and May 2020 was disrupted due to the national COVID-19 lockdown, which may have resulted in a lower number of placements in the first half of 2020 than we might normally expect.

In addition, as part of the Government response to COVID-19, during the national lockdown we worked with Housing First and other providers, iwi and Māori organisations to place 1,500 people in 1,200 motel units at 16 locations across the country. Agencies and community housing providers are giving ongoing support to those currently staying in motels and seeking long-term housing options for them.

Of the people who have lived in transitional housing since 2019, please tell me how many moved into permanent housing and list whether that housing was private or social or HNZ property. Please also include the 'total exits'.

Table 2 shows the number of households that entered transitional housing from 1 January 2019 and have since left and how many of those moved into private accommodation or public housing. Please note that the numbers provided relate to those who entered from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2020 and exited during that time. We do not have data on where all of those who left have exited to. In some cases households may not tell the transitional housing provider where they are moving.

Table 2: Exits from service for those households who exited after 1 January 2019

	Jan-19 to Dec-19	Jan-20 to Jun-20
Households serviced	7734	3698
Total exits	3476	1451
Private Rental	567	239
Public Housing	1163	419

How many of the people who moved out of transitional housing did so within 12 weeks of moving into transitional housing? How many moved out within 20 weeks and how many remained in transitional housing after 20 weeks? (please break this down into location, individuals or households and by year)

Table 3 shows the total number of households that exited within 12, 20, or more than 20 weeks by region between 1 January 2019 and 30 June 2020 regardless of when they entered transitional housing.

Table 3: Exits from service for those households who exited after 1 January 2019 and exited within 12 weeks, within 20, or more than 20 weeks

Region	Within 12 weeks		Within 20 weeks		More than 20 weeks	
	Jan-19 to Dec-19	Jan-20 to Jun-20	Jan-19 to Dec-19	Jan-20 to Jun-20	Jan-19 to Dec-19	Jan-20 to Jun-20
Northland	82	30	25	17	35	30
Auckland	960	276	376	146	580	240
Waikato	142	6	45	5	9	5
Bay of Plenty	73	53	30	8	57	36
East Coast	69	50	30	26	53	74
Central	69	56	25	22	24	30
Taranaki	10	3	6	0	3	4
Wellington	110	48	40	20	46	42
Nelson	18	16	11	6	29	14
Canterbury	233	66	67	35	94	39
Southern	90	31	24	9	11	8
Total	1856	635	679	294	941	522

What is the average length of time a household spent in transitional housing before moving out? (you can provide the average time since 2019)

From January 2019 to 30 June 2020, the average length of time a household spent in transitional housing from when they were placed to when they left was 17.8 weeks.

What are the five longest periods individuals or households have stayed in transitional housing. Where were they based, how long were they there for and how many people were in the household? Please also include where they moved to (private, social or HNZ or other), or whether they remain in transitional housing.

All five of the longest periods in transitional housing are individuals who have been at the same transitional housing facility since it first began receiving transitional housing funding. They have been in the service for 248 weeks, and all remained in service as at 30 April 2021. The individuals continue to benefit from the wraparound support that transitional housing provides. As acknowledged in the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan, there are currently gaps in supported housing provision which is why there is a long-term action under the Plan to make sure that people can access the type of support they need for as long as they need it. In the meantime, transitional housing is being used to support people who have an ongoing need for it.

How many transitional housing places (by household) exist? Are any more being built?

The Ministry produces monthly and quarterly updates to track progress and share data on public and transitional housing, our homelessness programmes and other housing support.

Our January 2021 monthly update shows there are 3,972 transitional housing places in New Zealand. These updates are available via the Ministry website at: www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/.

An additional 2,000 more transitional housing places are to be delivered by 2024 under the Public Housing Plan 2021-2024. The Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan has already delivered 1,000 extra transitional housing places in the last year.

How many people are currently living in transitional housing?

These households comprise a reported 4,066 individuals as at 30 June 2020.

How much was spent on transitional housing – including contracts with external providers – in 2019, 2020 and this year so far?

Table 4 shows the amount the Ministry has spent for accommodation and services in operating transitional housing places per year.

Table 5: Ministry spend on transitional housing

Year	Amount
2019	\$121.735m
2020	\$163.281m
Up to March 2021	\$49.890m

Do people staying in transitional housing still pay up to 25 percent of their income? What is the highest amount a household is currently paying?

Yes, households pay rent of up to 25 percent of their income, which is in line with income-related rents for public housing.

The Ministry does not centrally record or collate the amount each household pays for transitional housing. This information, if held, would be contained in individual client's records by transitional housing providers. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

It may interest you to know that, from October 2020, households in emergency housing longer than seven nights also need to pay 25 percent of their income towards their accommodation costs. This is called an Emergency Housing Contribution. You can read more about this on the Work and Income website at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2020/emergency-housing-changes.html.

What is the average size of a 'household' living in transitional housing?

The average size of a household in transitional housing between 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2020, was 2.3 household members.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Shaw', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anne Shaw
Deputy Chief Executive
Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships