



HUD2024-004298

s 9(2)(a)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Social Development, dated 17 April 2024 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). The following part of your request, as it relates to Transitional Housing, was transferred to Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry):

- *Annual debt owed from staying in transitional accommodation for period 2014-2024, break down by region and provide national sum.*
- *Annual transitional accommodation debt repaid for period 2014-2024, break down by region and provide national sum*
- *The current national highest amount owed from transitional housing from one individual*
- *The current Waikato highest amount owed for transitional housing from one individual*
- *Average length of stay in transitional housing to date. Break down by region if possible*
- *The longest length of stay in transitional accommodation nationally to date. Please provide the age of the individual.*

Transitional Housing provides temporary accommodation for individuals and whānau who don't have anywhere to live and urgently need a place to stay. It also offers tailored support to help these individuals and whānau into longer-term housing.

People living in Transitional Housing pay rent of up to 25 per cent of their income, in line with income-related rents for social housing and Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants. The rest of the costs are paid by Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) to contracted providers.

The Ministry does not manage rent arrears or debt management on behalf of Transitional Housing clients, nor do we hold data on rent arrear as we do not require providers to report on this. Accordingly, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, on the ground that the information requested is not held by the department and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

The longest length of stay in Transitional Housing across New Zealand is 2,026 days for clients who has exited Transitional Housing, and 1,879 for clients who are currently in Transitional Housing. I am withholding the age of these individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

These lengths of stay represent the extreme outliers of those who have been or are still in Transitional Housing and should be seen in the context of the median lengths of stay, which is much less.

I am releasing to you a table containing the median days spent in transitional housing for individuals who have exited, broken down by year and by region. You can find this table in annex one of this response,

When clients move on from Transitional Housing, they are offered ongoing support for up to 12 weeks to help them settle into their new home. However, clients are not obliged to take up these offers, or to inform their support services provider where they are moving on to when their housing outcome has not been facilitated by that provider.

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.

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 black ink, appearing to be 'WB', followed by a horizontal line.

William Barris

General Manager

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Annex One: Median days in Transitional Housing for individuals who have exited, by year and by region

HUD Region	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Auckland	46	67	87	112	160	234	157
Bay of Plenty	72	80	75	126	161	327	246
Canterbury	55	65	74	89	121	287	144
Central	37	54	66	89	76	99	159
East Coast	60	70	116	159	233	305	221
Northland	50	76	65	77	166	251	206
Southern	60	47	52	67	68	76	123
Taranaki	37	42	96	163	138	308	162
Waikato	31	54	71	87	144	137	191
Wellington	58	64	87	115	109	134	183
West Coast Tasman	28	69	149	73	160	334	125

Data notes

- Transitional Housing client data is based on the service provider reporting, which can be incomplete and may be revised in future. The quality and completeness of provider reporting can vary from month to month.
- Median days spent in Transitional Housing for those who have exited and have exit dates are reported.
- You may note that the median stay numbers generally peaked in 2022 for most regions and remained high in 2023. This is broadly attributable to many longer-term clients being housed in that period and hence the median time recorded for those exiting the service was higher than in preceding years.