



HUD2024-004472

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 09 May 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Q1- Policy Documents and Communications: Any policies, cabinet papers, briefs, public consultation documents, and aide-mémoires to Chief Executive, ELT, ministers or other agencies that discuss or reference the connection between housing policies and social cohesion. This might include any mention of concepts related to social cohesion such as belonging, community, and identity.*

*Q2 - Definition and Frameworks: Explain what definition of social cohesion is used by your agency in the context of housing policy. If Te Korowai Whetū - MSD's strategic framework for social cohesion is used, please confirm. Otherwise, please provide details of the alternative definition or framework employed.*

*Q3 - Impact Assessments: Any quantitative data, research findings, or analyses conducted by or available to your agency that assess the impact of housing policies on social cohesion within New Zealand. Or any other relevant indicators that might be mentioned in Te Korowai Whetū - MSD's measurement for social cohesion.*

*Q4 - Stakeholder Engagement: Information on how your agency engaged with any relevant stakeholders including general public, specific communities, experts and interest groups in the development two or three key housing policies that might have an impact on social cohesion. Keen to know and understand the level of engagement (inform, consult, involve, partner as per the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum), cost of engagement, timeframes, key stakeholder analysis, and any other relevant information re how you usually engage.*

*Q5 - Monitoring and Evaluation: Information on the mechanisms in place for monitoring and evaluating the impact of housing policies on social cohesion, including the use of any indicators from Te Korowai Whetū or other measurement frameworks.*

*Q6 - Future Initiatives: Any upcoming initiatives, policy changes, or strategic directions aimed at strengthening the link between housing policy and social cohesion. if any, and if not, why?*

As outlined in our refinement request sent to you on 15 May 2024, Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) does not use social cohesion as a term or framework to guide or underpin our work in the housing system. Instead, we created the Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development (GPS-HUD) to set a direction for housing and urban development in Aotearoa New Zealand, which was developed alongside MAIHI Ka Ora – the National Māori housing strategy.

The GPS-HUD's vision is that everyone in New Zealand lives in a home and a community that meets their needs and aspirations, and this vision guides our work across the housing system. The four main goals it sets out to achieve are:

- Thriving and resilient communities.
- Wellbeing through housing.
- Māori housing through partnership.
- An adaptive and responsive system.

The GPS-HUD also sets four connected action areas that set out the priorities across the next three to four years:

- Reduce barriers to building;
- build more homes where people need them;
- help people into affordable homes; and
- help people in urgent housing need.

You can find out more about the GPS-HUD at [www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/government-policy-statement-on-housing-and-urban-development](http://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/government-policy-statement-on-housing-and-urban-development).

The Ministry has developed He Oranga Kāinga, He Oranga Hapori - Housing and Urban Development Indicators (the indicators) to track progress towards the long-term goals in the GPS-HUD and MAIHI Ka Ora. These indicators are designed to show progress over the next five to ten years.

The indicators include information on homelessness, housing support, transport and urban areas, as well as on whānau, housing providers, funding, and the relationship between Māori and the Crown. Where data is available, the Ministry reports figures for whānau Māori, Pacific peoples, and disabled people, as well as for the general population. You can view the indicators at [www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/system-indicators/about-the-indicators](http://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/system-indicators/about-the-indicators).

We have published the latest Housing and Urban Development System Update, which reports on how the system is tracking to meet the outcomes and priorities set out in the GPS-HU) and MAIHI Ka Ora. This update reports on progress as at 30 June 2023, including initial progress against the indicators and progress against the priorities areas in the GPS-HUD. You can view the latest update at [www.hud.govt.nz/about-us/housing-and-urban-development-system-update-to-30-june-2023](http://www.hud.govt.nz/about-us/housing-and-urban-development-system-update-to-30-june-2023).

The Ministry has commissioned evaluations of several of our work programmes to gain insights into their effectiveness. As well as providing findings on the effectiveness of these programmes, the reviews also include feedback from people receiving support or are affected by policy changes. You can find these reviews at:

- [Housing First evaluation and Rapid Rehousing Review](#)
- [Contracted Emergency Housing in Rotorua](#)
- [Healthy Homes Standards](#)
- [Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2020](#)

For the reason outlined above, no documents are in scope of question one or six of your request, for any policies, cabinet papers, briefs, public consultation documents, and aides-memoire that discuss or reference the connection between housing policies and social cohesion, regarding current or future initiatives.

For this reason, we are refusing the first part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, on the ground that the documents alleged to contain the information requested do not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

On 15 May 2024, you refined question four of your request to the following:

- *Would you happen to have a policy (any policy) where you did engagement for longer than the Standard 4 -6 six consultation process?*
- *What I'm keen to get a sense of is have you ever gone to Cabinet to ask for a longer period of engagement and maybe more money for any policy?*
- *Do you do anything different to engage with Māori or diverse communities?*
- *Have you worked with external contractors on Māori engagement?*

Each consultation process is different and designed for a specific context, issue or question, and audience. For example, our Te MAIHI o te Whare Māori – the Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation Framework for Action (MAIHI) features a built-in Māori Crown partnership through the MAIHI Partnership Programme and regular MAIHI Whare Wānanga.

The MAIHI Whare Wānanga are regular meetings of Māori housing sector representatives and Crown officials to oversee the delivery of the MAIHI Framework for Action, which includes responding to the immediate housing crisis for Māori as well as resetting the long-term system to provide equitable solutions for Māori. You can learn more by visiting [www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/maihi-ka-ora-the-national-maori-housing-strategy](http://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/maihi-ka-ora-the-national-maori-housing-strategy).

In terms of timeframes for consultation, the only situations where we would seek “additional” time is where we are obligated by legislated timeframes or where the timeframe was agreed with the Minister beforehand.

In 2022, the Ministry consulted on proposals for regulations to manage methamphetamine contamination in rental housing. The Ministry sought and was granted an extension to this consultation by the then-Minister of Housing, after several stakeholders requested additional time due to the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle. Māori stakeholders were recognised as having a specific interest insofar as the proposals are relevant for renters and Māori are overrepresented among renters. We worked with Te Matapihi who supported us to engage with stakeholders and CHPs focused on housing whanau Māori.

In 2023, we consulted on the *Review of the Retirement Villages Act 2003: Options for Change* discussion paper. The then-Minister agreed that the consultation period would run for three months, from August to November. To engage effectively with retirement village residents, we ran a longer consultation period, made greater use of paper copies of the discussion paper and summary document, and accepted electronic as well as paper-based submissions.

Also in 2023, we ran a consultation process on proposed changes to the Unit Titles Act 1982. The consultation period was set for six weeks, but extensions of up to three weeks were granted to some submitters who sought more time. The consultation was targeted to unit titles stakeholders, recognising the very specific nature of the regulations. Iwi and Māori organisations that might have interests in multi-unit developments were identified and included in emails inviting them to make a submission.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'J Minko', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julia Minko  
**Manager Ministerial Services**  
**Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development**