

3 April 2020

Mr Tom Dickie
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Dear Mr Dickie

Thank you for your requests on 21 March 2020, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for the following information from Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities:

1. Is Kāinga Ora planning to buy KiwiBuild houses as part of their transitional housing stock strategy in Christchurch and Dunedin and if so how many?
2. How many state housing places, if any, have been provided for via a lease or purchase by Kāinga Ora in the last six months in Christchurch and Dunedin?
3. How many households are accommodated in hotels and motels for emergency for transitional housing reasons as at end February 2020 in Christchurch and Dunedin?
4. Of the 1000 transitional houses which the government is planning on delivering how many are proposed to be provided in Christchurch and Dunedin and what is the timescale for completion in each City?

This response covers your first and second requests. As you were advised on 27 March 2020, via the fyi.org.nz website, your third and fourth requests have been transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the information to which your request relates is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of that Ministry.

I can advise you that Kāinga Ora is not currently planning to purchase any KiwiBuild properties in Christchurch or Dunedin for use as transitional housing.

However, it may interest you to know that in January 2020, Kāinga Ora did purchase six KiwiBuild properties in the Waimakariri District. In this particular case, the purchases were made to meet an immediate need for warm, dry, secure accommodation for people and families currently living in motels or other emergency accommodation. The people and families in these homes are provided a wrap-around service for a period of time to help them eventually move into sustainable, long term housing.

To support delivery of transitional housing Kāinga Ora is working alongside HUD to look at opportunities to deliver more much needed transitional housing, right across New Zealand, particularly in areas where there are families in emergency motel accommodation.

The final number of transitional homes delivered in each region will depend on potential opportunities, due diligence on properties to ensure they are warm, dry and safe, and the result of commercial negotiations, as well as where there are families in emergency motel accommodation.

Regional Housing Fact Sheets which report on regional housing supply, including transitional housing places, are published by HUD every quarter. You can find this information at <https://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/follow-our-progress/>.

In the six months from 1 September 2019 to 29 February 2020 Kāinga Ora purchased eight properties to use as state housing. During this time no other properties for use as state housing were purchased or leased in Christchurch or Dunedin City. It may interest you to know that 17 properties to use as Community Group Housing, and six properties for use as emergency housing, were also purchased in Christchurch City within this six month period.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations