



Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Building and Housing

19 MAY 2015

Kevin Reilly
Manawatu Tenants Union
fyi-request-2619-ca300797@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Kevin

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 2015 to Hon Bill English, Minister Responsible for Housing New Zealand Corporation and part transferred to me, and for your emails of 17 and 20 April 2015, containing requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

- the number of private landlords in New Zealand (residential property landlords)
- the number of evictions from New Zealand homes in the last 12 months
- the number of Tenancy Tribunal applications in the last 12 months and what percentage of these are from tenants.

There is no legal requirement for landlords to register with a government agency. When a landlord ends a tenancy and requires the tenant to vacate their rental property, there is no legal requirement for this to be reported to a government agency. For this reason I am declining these requests under section 18(e) of the Act which states:

- *that the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found:*

It may be helpful for you to know that as of 5 May 2015, 129,450 landlords had registered one or more bond(s) with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry). While this process does not capture all landlords in New Zealand, it may provide an indication to you of how many landlords there are.

In regard how many tenancies have ended as a result of Tenancy Tribunal decisions, or the number of tenants evicted as a result of the court enforcement process in the last 12 months, you should request this information from the Ministry of Justice. Not all evictions go through these processes so the figures will not cover all evictions from New Zealand homes. You can contact the Ministry of Justice at the following address:

Ministry of Justice
Justice Centre
19 Aitken St
DX SX10088
WELLINGTON

Email: info@justice.govt.nz
Phone 04-918 8800

Regarding the number of applications to the Tenancy Tribunal, I can advise that there were 39,016 applications in the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. Of these, 3,597 or 9.2 percent were from tenants.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision to decline parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act. The relevant contact details are:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10 152
WELLINGTON 6143

Ph 0800 802 602
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Kind regards



Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for Building and Housing