

1 - JUL 2015

Alex Harris

[fyi-request-2835-f49120@requeusts.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2835-f49120@requeusts.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alex

Thank you for your request of 11 June 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the numbers of requests Housing New Zealand has received from District Health Boards (DHBs) to move tenants for health reasons. You ask:

*'How many requests from DHBs have they received in the last year to move a tenant for health reasons?'*

*'Of these requests, how many have they acted on?'*

Housing New Zealand does not centrally record requests we receive from DHBs on behalf of tenants, or the outcomes of such requests. This information is recorded on individual tenant files. Therefore, I am declining your request under section 18(f) of the Act, *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

You should note that since April 2014 the Ministry for Social Development (MSD) has been responsible for assessing both new applications for housing and requests from existing Housing New Zealand tenants for a transfer. As a result, requests for a tenant to be transferred for health reasons are more likely to be submitted to MSD than to Housing New Zealand. I have discussed your request with MSD, which advises that it does not record this information in the form you request it. Therefore, I am declining to provide you with this information under section 18(f) of the Act.

Housing New Zealand remains responsible for tenancy management, and for ensuring that the condition of our properties meets our tenant's needs. Housing New Zealand may also transfer tenants for business reasons, for example, if we require a property for a redevelopment or for a major upgrade.

When Housing New Zealand receives advice from a DHB or other health professional that a property is unsuitable for a tenant due to health reasons, our staff will visit and inspect the property. If only minor changes are required to make the property suitable for the tenant, we will endeavour to make these changes. If a property is detrimental to the tenant's health and major work is required to bring it to standard, we may place the tenant on our waiting list for a business-initiated transfer to a more suitable property. We do not centrally record the reasons for business-initiated transfers, as these applicants, unlike tenants applying to MSD for a transfer, do not complete a needs assessment.

If the issues with the property cannot be resolved (for example, if the configuration of the property does not allow insulation to be installed), we will support the tenant to make a transfer application to MSD.

I trust this information is helpful. You have the right under section 28 of the Act to ask an Ombudsmen to review my decision to decline your request for information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "diKeay".

**Kay Read**  
**General Manager Tenancy Services**