

25 NOV 2015

Greg Presland
fyi-request-3279-8a099394@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Presland

Thank you for your email received on 23 October 2015 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

“Minister Bennett talked about prospective tenants complaining about birds chirping, the back yard being too small and the door being the wrong colour. She mentioned 414 refusals in the past 12 months.

Please advise:

- 1. How many refusals were because of birds chirping?*
- 2. How many refusals were because of the back yard being too small?*
- 3. How many refusals were because the front door was the wrong colour?*
- 4. How many refusals were because the house was damp or cold or mouldy?*
- 5. How many refusals were considered appropriate.*

For instances of people turning down Housing New Zealand houses they were offered because of birds chirping, the need for a bigger backyard for a trampoline, and concerns about the colour of a door, I am declining this request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act, as this information is publicly available in the replies to written parliamentary question 13390 (2015) which can be found at http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/business/qwa/QWA_13390_2015/13390-2015-phil-twyford-to-the-minister-for-social-housing, written parliamentary question 13391 (2015) which can be found at http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/business/qwa/QWA_13391_2015/13391-2015-phil-twyford-to-the-minister-for-social-housing and written parliamentary question 13392 (2015) which can be found at http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/business/qwa/QWA_13392_2015/13392-2015-phil-twyford-to-the-minister-for-social-housing.

I am also refusing to provide information on how many declines were because the house was damp or cold or mouldy or how many refusals were considered appropriate.

Decline reasons are contained in individual files. The decline reasons quoted in the speech to Community Housing Aotearoa were manually extracted from information from individual files, cross referenced against Housing New Zealand's records. The information was originally used for policy development. It would require reviewing all comments in all files to recompile the information as file reference numbers were not retained by Housing New Zealand.

Therefore, I am declining your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as providing the information requested would require substantial collation and research.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask an Ombudsman to review the decision to decline parts of your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rachel Kelly
Manager, Government Relations