



16 NOV 2019

Ms Keri Eagan  
[fyi-request-8714-8229310b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-8714-8229310b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Eagan

On 19 September 2018, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Please indicate the number of properties purpose built or planned to be built to accommodate disabilities in social housing (if any) for each of the years 2013 to 2018, in each region.*

Since its establishment on 1 October 2018, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) has assumed responsibility for reporting on public housing tenancies. The Ministry has worked closely with MSD in preparing this response to your request. As you are aware, you will receive a separate response from Housing New Zealand, being New Zealand's largest provider of public housing.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are able to access public housing that meets their needs. For example we are continuing to work in partnership with registered community housing providers and Housing New Zealand to increase and vary the supply of public housing and transitional housing places, as well as making sure we are providing the support people need to build more independent lives. In addition, through the Ministry of Health, some public housing properties are able to be modified to meet people's specific needs. This can be anywhere from installing handrails to making homes completely accessible and functional.

The Ministry is also seeking to support projects that are designed to offer additional facilities for targeted cohorts, for example accessible units that cater to people with disabilities and/or older people. We are also looking to engage with providers to explore the development of new accessibility standards for public and affordable housing.

In terms of your request, the Ministry does not have visibility over the total number of properties purpose built or planned to be built to accommodate people with disabilities in public housing. The Ministry does not hold records containing the information you have requested, this is the domain of housing providers; rather we do subsidise public housing tenancies through contracts with registered community housing providers and the income-related rent subsidy. Therefore your request for the number of properties purpose built or planned to be built to accommodate disabilities in public housing is refused under section 18(g) of Official Information Act as this information is not held by the Ministry. However, we are able to report on the

number of public housing tenancies where it is indicated that the property is modified.

Table One, attached, shows the number of public housing tenancies as at the quarters ending 30 September 2015 to 30 September 2018, broken down by quarter and the number of modified properties. A property is considered to have been modified if it has had internal modifications made, eg ramps or other mobility support features installed. In August 2015, MSD transitioned from using Housing New Zealand's IT system to its own. As such, we can only provide this data from the quarter ending September 2015 onwards.

You may also be interested in the number of applications on the Social Housing Register that require a modified home. The Social Housing Register comprises the Housing Register, which is a count of applicants who are waiting for the allocation of a public house, and the Transfer Register, which is the number of public housing tenants whose current home no longer meets their requirements. To be placed on the Social Housing Register, an applicant undertakes a housing need assessment with MSD. This assessment is based on the household composition, housing circumstances, housing history and also takes into account a person's need to move due to a disability or for medical needs.

Table Two, attached, shows the number of applications on the Social Housing Register as at the quarters ending 30 September 2015 to 30 September 2018 that required a modified property, broken down by quarter and register type.

MSD, in consultation with the Ministry, is currently revising its processes as part of continuous improvement in reporting. This has resulted in delays in providing you with this information at a regional level. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. The Ministry will provide the information broken down by territorial authority as soon as the data becomes available. Please advise by return email if you no longer require this information. In the meantime, I hope you find the enclosed national level data useful.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding modified public housing properties with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@hud.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@hud.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Public Housing Supply**

**Table One:** Number of public housing tenancies as at the quarters ending 30 September 2015 to 30 September 2018, broken down by quarter and the number of modified properties

Quarter ending	Modified Property		Total Tenancies
	No	Yes	
<b>September 2015</b>	58,648	3,882	<b>62,530</b>
<b>December 2015</b>	59,372	3,991	<b>63,363</b>
<b>March 2016</b>	56,855	3,857	<b>60,712*</b>
<b>June 2016</b>	59,417	4,089	<b>63,506</b>
<b>September 2016</b>	59,432	4,119	<b>63,551</b>
<b>December 2016</b>	59,672	4,173	<b>63,845</b>
<b>March 2017</b>	58,969	4,097	<b>63,066**</b>
<b>June 2017</b>	60,347	4,191	<b>64,538</b>
<b>September 2017</b>	60,696	4,224	<b>64,920</b>
<b>December 2017</b>	60,920	4,268	<b>65,188</b>
<b>March 2018</b>	61,163	4,310	<b>65,473</b>
<b>June 2018</b>	61,449	4,335	<b>65,784</b>
<b>September 2018</b>	61,863	4,372	<b>66,235</b>

**Notes:**

- The property is considered to have been modified if it has had internal modifications made, ramps installed or other mobility support features installed.
- This includes both Housing New Zealand (HNZ) and Community Housing Provider (CHP) tenancies.
- There is sometimes a delay in tenancy information reaching MSD and as such tenancy numbers may not always align with HNZ and CHP tenancy numbers at a point in time.
- \*On 1 April 2016, 2,596 tenancies were transferred from HNZ to CHP Tāmaki Regeneration Company. The HNZ tenancies were ended on 31 March 2016 with the new tenancies commencing from 1 April 2016. As such, these tenancies are missing from the quarter end number and included in the following quarter.
- \*\*On 1 April 2017, 1,108 tenancies were transferred from HNZ to CHP Accessible Properties Limited. The HNZ tenancies were ended on 31 March 2017 with the new tenancies commencing from 1 April 2017. As such, these tenancies are missing from the quarter end number and included in the following quarter.

**Table Two:** The number of applications on the Social Housing Register as at the quarters ending 30 September 2015 to 30 September 2018 that require a modified property, broken down by quarter and register type

<b>Quarter ending</b>	<b>Housing Register</b>	<b>Transfer Register</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	388	252	<b>640</b>
<b>December 2015</b>	391	260	<b>651</b>
<b>March 2016</b>	348	221	<b>569</b>
<b>June 2016</b>	312	198	<b>510</b>
<b>September 2016</b>	309	166	<b>475</b>
<b>December 2016</b>	301	163	<b>464</b>
<b>March 2017</b>	299	152	<b>451</b>
<b>June 2017</b>	277	160	<b>437</b>
<b>September 2017</b>	260	157	<b>417</b>
<b>December 2017</b>	253	155	<b>408</b>
<b>March 2018</b>	324	173	<b>497</b>
<b>June 2018</b>	337	183	<b>520</b>
<b>September 2018</b>	376	180	<b>556</b>

**Notes:**

- This only includes priority A and B applications. The A and B priority applications used in these tables are as at the end of the quarter and may have changed prior to this date.