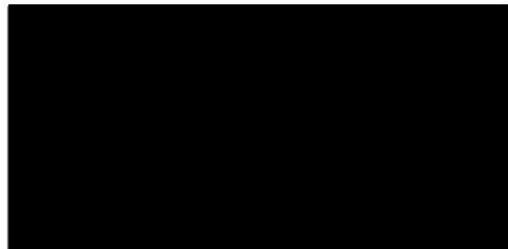


22 April 2021



On 17 February 2021, you requested the following information from under the Official Information Act 1982:

- *Are Kainga Ora houses still being tested for methamphetamine?*
- *If so, how many houses were tested in 2020 and so far in 2021?*
- *What is the criteria that needs to be fulfilled before a house will be tested? And is this based on a policy document or operational guideline you can show us?*
- *Was anyone evicted in 2020 or so far in 2021 as a result of methamphetamine testing and if so, how many households? Are there any current cases in 2021 where it is still to be decided if a tenant will be evicted for reasons relating to methamphetamine contamination results?*
- *What is the criteria that needs to be fulfilled before someone can be evicted for methamphetamine use (if they can be)?*
- *If anyone was evicted in 2020-2021, how many of the households included children?*
- *Please can we see*
 - *any policy advice on methamphetamine contamination you have given in 2020 or 2021, and*
 - *any communications with your Minister or your Board during that timeframe about methamphetamine testing*

If there are examples of when someone has been evicted for methamphetamine contamination in 2020/2021, it would be really helpful if you could specify if that was due to meth use or methamphetamine manufacture in the property.

On 16 March 2021, we extended the due date for this request by an additional 25 working days.

I will now address the questions you raised in your bullet points.

Are Kainga Ora houses still being tested for methamphetamine?

If so, how many houses were tested in 2020 and so far in 2021?

Yes. Methamphetamine contamination can pose a health and safety concern to our customers and our staff and for that reason, we undertake testing primarily when there is evidence that suggests that methamphetamine is being used or manufactured. From 1 January 2020 to 18 February 2021, 240 Kāinga Ora properties were tested for methamphetamine.

What is the criteria that needs to be fulfilled before a house will be tested? And is this based on a policy document or operational guideline you can show us?

Kāinga Ora will generally only test for meth when there is credible evidence to support the suspicion that there may be high levels of meth contamination, caused by either meth manufacture or very heavy meth use.

A copy of our policy document, *P-250 Policy for managing methamphetamine (meth) in Kāinga Ora-managed properties*, is attached as requested.

What is the criteria that needs to be fulfilled before someone can be evicted for methamphetamine use (if they can be)?

If anyone was evicted in 2020-2021, how many of the households included children?

Between 1 January 2020 and 18 February 2021, no customers were evicted from Kāinga Ora homes as a result of methamphetamine use. Kāinga Ora views meth use as a drug addiction problem and tries to support customers to improve their wellbeing and that of their families.

Customers must continue to meet their obligations under their tenancy agreement where using, possessing and manufacturing methamphetamine are offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Customers who cause methamphetamine contamination to their property are in breach of their obligation not to damage it. However, Kāinga Ora is realistic that some customers have complex needs and we focus on sustaining tenancies not ending them. Our aim is to help our customers receive the services they need to live well in their home. We will work closely with relevant agencies to ensure the individual circumstances and needs are considered thoroughly and that we make the best decision for customers and their families.

You also asked to see policy advice that has been provided to Ministers and our Board regarding policies around meth testing during 2020 and 2021. There has been no such advice provided to Ministers or the Board in the period covered by your request.

Kāinga Ora has been involved in agency discussions with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on the development of methamphetamine regulations under the Residential Tenancies Act. There are two emails to HUD and one document prepared for our senior management team that advise on aspects of methamphetamine testing related to those discussions.

These documents are withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations