

15 February 2022

s9(2)(a)



Thank you for your request dated 17 January 2022 to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How many properties have been purchased through the First Home Partner scheme since it launched on 5 October, 2021, and 5 January, 2022?*
- *How many people engaged with the scheme in those dates and, to compare, how many saw it right through to buying property?*
- *How much money has Kāinga Ora given out through the scheme in those dates?*
- *How many of the Kāinga Ora contributions have been 25% of the purchase price and how many were the \$200,000 instead?*
- *How many unsuccessful property sales has Kāinga Ora been involved with in those dates?*
- *A breakdown of property purchases under the scheme by region (eg. 1 Auckland, 1 Wellington etc) in those dates (a further breakdown by contribution type would be appreciated).*

First Home Partner (FHP) is part of the Government's Progressive Home Ownership Fund (PHO), which supports individuals and whānau into home ownership via the following initiatives:

- **Provider pathway:** Enables organisations to access funding to establish or expand their progressive home ownership programmes.
- **Te Au Taketake (iwi and Māori pathway):** Provides dedicated funding for iwi and Māori organisations to develop or expand their progressive home ownership programmes, supporting better housing outcomes for whānau Māori.
- **Direct to household:** First Home Partner, a new shared ownership product administered by Kāinga Ora. It is designed to assist first home buyers who can service a mortgage but need help raising their deposit.

I have provided a response to each of your questions below.

How many properties have been purchased through the First Home Partner scheme since it launched on 5 October, 2021, and 5 January, 2022?

There were no property settlements completed between 5 October 2021 and 5 January 2022 for FHP. However, three property purchases have settled in January 2022. They are the first properties purchased with the assistance of FHP. In addition, as at 21 January 2022, Kāinga Ora has accepted the sale and purchase agreements of another 14 properties, which are currently awaiting settlement, finance confirmation or council documents.

FHP specifically supports the purchase of properties off the plans and newly built homes that have received their Code Compliance Certificates.

How many people engaged with the scheme in those dates and, to compare, how many saw it right through to buying property?

Between the launch of FHP and 5 January 2022, Kāinga Ora received 2133 applications where an application was drafted but not yet submitted, 672 applications were submitted ready for eligibility assessment, 295 applications were deemed eligible (ready to search for a property and progress towards approval), 17 applications were approved (awaiting settlement, finance confirmation or council documents), and no settlements occurred.

How much money has Kāinga Ora given out through the scheme in those dates?

A total of \$129,554.00 was used from 5 October 2021 – 5 January 2022 assisting four purchasers with a deposit contribution. Although FHP only requires a 5% deposit there is evidence some vendors still require a 10% deposit in which we would make a contribution from their allocated share portion. These applications are still awaiting settlement and in some cases have been delayed due to finance or title issuance.

It is also important to note that Kāinga Ora is not a lender. For example, Kāinga Ora determines eligibility for FHP, but applicants will still need to meet the lending requirements of a participating bank.

How many of the Kāinga Ora contributions have been 25% of the purchase price and how many were the \$200,000 instead?

There have been no applications utilising the full 25% of the purchase price. Two applications have been assessed at \$200,000 with both pending and not yet approved.

How many unsuccessful property sales has Kāinga Ora been involved with in those dates?

No applications that have reached an approval status (where all parties have accepted a sales and purchase agreement) have had the sale fall through.

A breakdown of property purchases under the scheme by region (eg. 1 Auckland, 1 Wellington etc) in those dates (a further breakdown by contribution type would be appreciated).

As no property purchases settled within the timeframe of your request, this information has not been tracked I am refusing this part of your request under Section 18(g) of the Act.

You have the right under Section 28(3) of the Act to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman about this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at either www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations