

12 JAN 2018

Thank you for your email dated 10 December 2017 in which you asked for the following information:

- *Could you please advise how many of the promised new homes the Housing Ministry has commenced since the change of government*
- *Could you confirm the number of Housing commissioned homes completed since the change of government.*
- *Can you confirm the numbers of homeless families in the Auckland area your Ministry has placed in permanent homes since the change of government.*
- *Can you please confirm the number of state owned house currently vacant in the Auckland area, awaiting maintenance repairs, and those ready to be tenanted.*
- *Can you confirm the number of families currently on the waiting list for permanent housing in Auckland and the current waiting time they are facing before your Ministry places them in affordable permanent housing.*

On 14 December 2017, we wrote to you advising that the following two aspects of your request had been transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) for response:

- *Can you confirm the numbers of homeless families in the Auckland area your Ministry has placed in permanent homes since the change of government.*
- *Can you confirm the number of families currently on the waiting list for permanent housing in Auckland and the current waiting time they are facing before your Ministry places them in affordable permanent housing.*

Housing New Zealand has interpreted your request as relating to homes in our housing portfolio that are tenanted by individuals and/or families listed on the Social Housing Register (the Register). MSD manages the Register, and is responsible for assessing and prioritising social housing need. Only those who are identified as having serious housing needs, and in spite of all reasonable efforts to do so, have been unable to find somewhere to live, are placed on the Register. Housing New Zealand's role is to match those on the Register with the right property, in the right place.

The information provided to you excludes homes that Housing New Zealand has either purchased, or built for sale in the general market as affordable homes.

Housing New Zealand's reporting processes are based on the monthly collection of details that illustrate organisational output towards set targets. The same approach has been adopted to identify the information you requested.

Accordingly, the figures provided are from the period 31 October 2017, being the month-end closest to the date the new Government came into power, up to 30 November 2017, which is the month-end closest to the date of your information request.

The following table provides the information in response to your first and second bullet points. These are:

- numbers of new homes/new builds that were already underway as at 31 October 2017
- numbers of new homes/new builds that were commenced from 31 October 2017; and of these,
- the numbers of new homes/builds that were completed by 30 November 2017.

<b>New homes/new builds and redevelopments underway as at 31 October 2017</b>	<b>Number of new homes/new builds commenced since 31 October 2017</b>	<b>Number of homes completed by 30 November 2017</b>
1,505	199	13

As context to the numbers provided, Housing New Zealand emphasises that its new builds are continuous, and that there is an ongoing development pipeline. This means there are thousands of new homes and redevelopments underway at any given time. As new homes are being delivered at various stages, looking at the number of new builds over a longer period would provide a more accurate reflection of that pipeline. For example, in the 2016/17 financial year Housing New Zealand reported that it had delivered a total of 1,524 homes.

You have also asked for the confirmed number of state owned houses currently vacant in the Auckland area, awaiting maintenance repairs, and those ready to be tenanted. Housing New Zealand reports quarterly on its housing statistics, including the numbers of vacant properties and the reasons why these properties are not tenanted.

The information you requested is available at <https://www.hnzc.co.nz/publications/housing-statistics-vacant-properties/>. You will find the following vacant property information at this link:

- a national summary
- statistics by Territorial Local Authority, and
- vacant properties listed against the Auckland Community Board – this section is likely to be the one you are interested in.

Accordingly, I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act (the Act) *because the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.*

Under section 28(1) of the Act, you can ask for an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information on how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by free phone 0800 802 602.

I trust this information is useful.

Yours sincerely



**Rachel Kelly**  
Manager Government Relations