

8 JAN 2018

Thank you for your emails of 12 and 13 December 2017 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You ask for:

- *the number of houses in Blenheim and the current waiting list*
- *Housing New Zealand's plans for its housing stock in Blenheim.*

Housing New Zealand reports property information by Territorial Local Authority (TLA). Blenheim is included in the Marlborough District TLA. At the end of November 2017, there were 410 state housing properties in the Marlborough District TLA. This excludes properties used for Community Group Housing, emergency, and transitional housing.

The table below provides a breakdown of this figure by census unit area to show where these properties are situated.

TLA	City	Current Census Area Unit	Number of properties
MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT	BLENHEIM	Blenheim Central	39
		Mayfield	115
		Redwoodtown	64
		Springlands	44
		Whitney	80
		Witherlea	29
	PICTON	Picton	36
	RENWICK	Renwick	2
	SPRING CREEK	Spring Creek-Grovetown	1
	Grand Total		

It may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is the agency responsible for assessing housing need and managing the social housing register (formerly the Housing New Zealand waiting list). Housing New Zealand remains responsible for allocating state houses to eligible applicants identified by MSD, and for managing their tenancies.

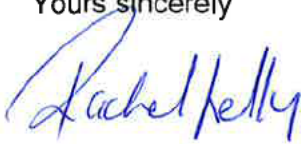
As a result I am declining your request for the current waiting list for Blenheim under section 18(g)(ii) of the Act, "*the information requested is connected more closely with the functions of another Department*". However, please note that MSD publishes quarterly Housing Register figures on its website at <http://www.housing.msd.govt.nz/information-for-housing-providers/register/>. This information includes a breakdown by TLA.

Housing New Zealand is actively considering its future plans for building more public housing for Blenheim, and we are working with MSD on how we meet demand there. While numbers are not confirmed at this stage, the proposed developments are likely to involve using our existing land to build more houses.

Housing New Zealand's mandate is to provide good quality, secure, affordable housing for those New Zealanders with the highest housing need. Generally, to be eligible for public housing, applicants have significant barriers that prevent them accessing housing in the private sector. While our mandate has expanded to include emergency and transitional housing, Housing New Zealand does not generally provide short-term accommodation for seasonal workers.

I trust this information is helpful. You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask an Ombudsman to review my response.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly
Manager, Government Relations