

02 MAY 2018



Thank you for your email of 4 April 2018 to Housing New Zealand requesting the following information:

*"...Housing New Zealand's policy on providing housing for prisoners on release, as a bail address and/or prisoner using Housing New Zealand housing as an electronic-bail address."*

Your request was considered under the Official Information Act 1982.

Housing New Zealand does not have a specific policy on requests for people to be bailed to its properties (electronic or otherwise). Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Housing New Zealand uses discretion in deciding who may be bailed to its properties, including considering:

- the applicant's relationship to the tenant
- the seriousness of the charges and potential risk to staff, contractors, the neighbourhood and the property
- if the addition of an extra person in the household would breach the tenancy agreement
- any history or ongoing antisocial behaviour at the tenancy.

Housing New Zealand will generally give permission for people who are normally resident at the property, and their children. Since 2010, Housing New Zealand's tenancy agreements contain the following clause:

*"Where you wish to have an additional person, who is not normally resident at the premises, join your household for a period of more than three months (including those who are either bailed or apply to serve a sentence of home detention at the premises) then you must obtain Housing New Zealand's written approval before that person moves in with you."*

There may be circumstances where Housing New Zealand will not give permission for a person to be bailed to a property. For example, as a landlord Housing New Zealand has a duty under Section 45(1)(e) of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986 to take all reasonable steps to ensure that none of its tenants cause or permit interference with the reasonable peace, comfort or privacy of those around them.

Housing New Zealand also needs to take into account the impact additional adults might have on the household, particularly in terms of overcrowding. There is a limit to the number of people that can be housed in any given property. When a new tenancy is set up, the needs of the household are carefully matched to the size of the property and the number of bedrooms required.

If a prisoner needs to apply for public housing independently, they will need to apply with the Ministry of Social Development to be placed on the Social Housing Register. You can find more information about this process at [www.housing.msd.govt.nz](http://www.housing.msd.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rachel Kelly**  
**Manager Government Relations**