

7 November 2023

s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request on 10 October 2023 to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for the following information:

Whangarei has a very high number of new and planned Kainga Ora developments and houses.

Where are the expected new tenants for these new homes coming from?

Are they existing Whangarei residents or are they currently living outside of the Whangarei area? Can you give a summary of how many of the planned residents currently live in Whangarei and how many do not?

Kāinga Ora and its predecessors have been part of the community for decades via ownership of public housing in the area, with some of our houses in the area now needing to be replaced due to age and condition.

Decisions on who will move into our new homes are made close to the date of completing each home. Sometimes we move people who are already living in a Kāinga Ora home and other tenants are taken from the Ministry of Social Development Housing Register. As of 30 June 2023, there were 552 individuals or families in the Whangārei District on the Ministry of Social Development Housing Register in need of a home.

It is not necessary for the people who move into homes in Whangārei to be already living in Whangārei, they might come from elsewhere. However, we seek to place people in homes where they already have connections and so it is likely that most of the people moving into our new homes in Whangarei will already live here or have connections.

As Kāinga Ora places people from Ministry of Social Development waitlist as and when homes are ready, it does not hold information on whether applicants are currently living in or outside Whangārei. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section of 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

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

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Ngā mihi,



Jeff Murray
Regional Director, Te Taitokerau