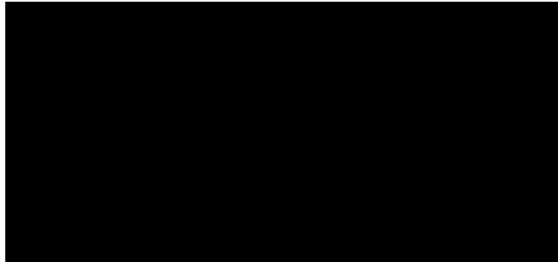


28 SEP 2018



Thank you for your email of 7 August 2018 to Housing New Zealand requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 about methamphetamine contamination in the Bay of Plenty (BOP).

Housing New Zealand has changed the way it approaches methamphetamine contamination in its homes. We have stopped ending tenancies for methamphetamine contamination. In addition, any household previously suspended has had the suspension withdrawn, and Housing New Zealand will not be collecting any outstanding debt relating to methamphetamine damage and remediation and will be refunding any debt already paid.

The Minister of Housing and Urban Development asked Housing New Zealand to produce a comprehensive report on our policies, processes, and the outcome of methamphetamine contamination in our properties. The Minister published this report on 20 September 2018, and can be found at <http://www.hnzc.co.nz/news/latest-news/housing-new-zealand-meth-report-released/>.

I have answered your individual questions below.

The data is provided by the Territorial Local Authorities (TLA) of Whakatane, Tauranga, Western BOP, Rotorua, Kawerau, and Opotiki unless otherwise stated.

... how many tenants were evicted from their Housing New Zealand homes in the Eastern Bay and Bay of Plenty because tests showed the presence of methamphetamine over the past three years? Can you break down the data for each year?

An eviction occurs where a court bailiff is authorised to obtain possession of a property after a tenancy has been ended by the Tenancy Tribunal, the landlord has an order for possession of the property, and the tenant has not vacated it. All evictions in the Bay of Plenty in 2015/16 and 2016/17 took place in Tauranga.

Housing New Zealand evictions for methamphetamine contamination in Tauranga

Year	Total
2015/16	2
2016/17	1
2017/18	0

... provide the number and location of Housing New Zealand homes in the Eastern Bay and Bay of Plenty where methamphetamine was detected in the past three years, broken down into each year?

Housing New Zealand did not record the number of positive methamphetamine tests by TLA in 2015/16 and 2016/17. This information was recorded by region:

Positive methamphetamine tests in the Bay of Plenty region

2015/16	2016/17
60	93

Positive methamphetamine tests by Territorial Local Authority in 2017/18

Territorial Local Authority	Positive tests
Rotorua District	24
Tauranga City	9
Whakatane District	22
Total	55

How much did Housing New Zealand spend on repairing houses in the Eastern Bay and Bay of Plenty where methamphetamine was detected in the past three years?

The figures below include costs to decontaminate properties and for repairs to bring them up to standard. Prior to mid-2016, Housing New Zealand did not centrally record these costs.

Territorial Local Authority	2016/17 (\$)	2017/18 (\$)
Kawerau District	104,164	-
Opotiki District	118,065	19,280*
Rotorua District	1,101,246	1,910,732
Tauranga City	1,465,333	436,374
Western Bay of Plenty District	71,959	-
Whakatane District	348,937	427,980
Total	3,209,706	2,794,366

*payments made for expenses incurred in 2016/17

*these costs include non decontamination costs to restore the properties

Note: figures do not include annual adjustments made after audit

How has Housing New Zealand's policies changes since the release of Sir Peter Gluckman's report, which states that there is no health risk from methamphetamine residue?

This information is contained in Housing New Zealand's report. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as "the information requested is or will soon be publicly available".

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations

