

13 DEC 2012

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Brendon Mills
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Dear Mr Mills

Thank you for your email of 14 November 2012 to the Minister of Housing requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1992:

"...how many Housing NZ Corporation tenants have been evicted in the period from 2009 to 2012, and how much of those tenants have been able to find alternative accommodation."

On 16 November 2012 the Minister transferred your request to Housing New Zealand Corporation, under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. I have considered your request under the Act.

The Corporation evicted 82 tenants from its properties from 1 January 2009 to 29 November 2012. It should be noted that an eviction requires a court order and is carried out by a court bailiff pursuant to a Tenancy Tribunal decision.

The Corporation does not keep a record of people's housing situations or their alternative accommodation arrangements once they have been evicted from Corporation properties. Therefore, I am declining to provide this information under section 18(e) of the Act. This section provides that a request may be refused if "... *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found*".

However, I can advise you that prior to any eviction, given that this is a last resort, the Corporation will consider all options for the household to remain in the property, depending on the reason for ending the tenancy. For example, if termination is due to rental arrears, Corporation staff will have talked to the family about other options, including discussing their circumstances with Work and Income. Before eviction, the Corporation will examine and advise of alternative housing options, such as emergency housing providers and private sector accommodation. If children are present Child, Youth and Family are informed of the Corporation's intention to evict the household.

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

Yours sincerely



Sharon Girvan
Manager Government Relations (Acting)