

9 March 2018

Robert Stewart  
[fyi-request-7384-b6de12ff@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7384-b6de12ff@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Stewart

**Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your request received on 6 March regarding the legal requirements of completing the census.

The Statistics Act 1975 (the Act) places obligations upon persons in New Zealand to source census forms (if necessary) and fill in and return forms in accordance with the instructions given. As such, there is no minimum requirement, and forms are to be completed in full. This does not differ from previous censuses.

Relevant provisions of the Act are as follows:

- s25 Duty of persons to obtain census schedule
- s26 Duty of occupier and other persons abiding in dwelling
- s31 Onus to complete schedules
- s32 Furnishing of information required in schedules

The full text of the Act can be found at <https://goo.gl/oaLkVa>.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to seek an investigation and review of this response to your request.

Stats NZ intends to publish its response to your request made under the Act on the Stats NZ website. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Consistent with the Act, publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and helps promote balanced public debate.

Yours sincerely,



Denise McGregor  
**General Manager**  
**2018 Census**

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