

22 MAR 2019

Tim Makarios

fyi-request-9695-2de0bcff@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Makarios

Thank you for your official information request dated 27 February 2019, via the fyi website, asking:

1. *"How many dwellings does Housing New Zealand own as of the date of this request (27 February 2019)?"*
2. *How many of those dwellings are empty (that is, without any tenants) as of the date of this request?*
3. *Are any of those empty dwellings in the Epuni East area unit?*
 - a. *If so, please provide a list of the addresses of all such empty dwellings in Epuni East."*

Answers to your first three questions are provided below in the order presented. However, we have decided to refuse your request for information which relates to the addresses of Housing New Zealand properties, as releasing this detail is likely to risk identifying future tenants. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

1. 61,157 (this excludes leased properties)
2. 1,286 of those dwellings are empty
3. Seven of those empty dwellings are in the Epuni East Census Area

Like any landlord, at any point in time Housing New Zealand has some properties that are vacant while one tenancy ends and another begins. During this short time the property is being inspected to make sure there is no tenant damage and carry out any maintenance work before a new tenant can move in.

Housing New Zealand long-term vacant properties are generally being held vacant pending redevelopment, are methamphetamine contaminated, or are undergoing major repairs and upgrades. Housing statistics, including vacant properties, are regularly published on our website at: <https://www.hnzc.co.nz/publications/housing-statistics-vacant-properties/>

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.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations