

20 April 2020



Thank you for your email of 19 March 2020 requesting the following information from Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *The policy for the selection of using a preferred real estate agent that acts on behalf of Kainga Ora purchasing/selling houses.*
2. *The procedure that a real estate agent must complete to be considered as an a preferred real estate agent to act for Kainga Ora purchasing/selling houses.*
3. *The period of time any selected real estate acts for Kainga Ora before Kainga Ora must go to market to seek expressions of interest.*
4. *The name of any real estate agent currently acting for Kainga Ora in Hamilton City.*
5. *The date that person starting acting for Kainga Ora in the role of preferred real estate agent.*
6. *The date the preferred real estate agent term will expire.*
7. *The name of any Harcourts real estate agent currently acting for Kainga Ora in the Hamilton City.*
8. *The date that person starting acting for Kainga Ora in the role of preferred real estate agent from Harcourts.*
9. *The date the preferred real estate agent from Harcourts term will expire.*
10. *The number house purchased/sold by any Harcourts agent in Hamilton for the period:*
 - 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018*
 - 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019*
 - 01 April 2019 to 29 February 2020*

Kāinga Ora does not have preferred real estate agents or procedures relating to this. When Kāinga Ora intends to sell a property to market, multiple local agencies are approached to provide appraisals and assist in making well informed decisions during the divestment process.

Due to a shortage of public housing, Kāinga Ora is both building and buying in a number of areas of New Zealand to address this shortage. As such, any real estate agent can approach Kāinga Ora with a property that they believe might be of interest to us. When Kāinga Ora sells a property, it approaches multiple agencies at the stage in which the property is approved for sale on the open market and as such there is no specific time period for this process.

Kāinga Ora does not centrally record the number of houses purchased from or sold by Harcourts or any other real estate agent, this information would need to be manually sourced from multiple documents.

As the information you have requested in questions one to nine is not held, I am declining this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as “*that the information requested is not held*”. As the information you have requested in question ten would require substantial collation to source, I am declining this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act as “*that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research*”.

In regards to your questions concerning Hamilton specifically, I can advise that Kāinga Ora has purchased 63 existing properties in Hamilton and has not listed any properties for sale during the requested period.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman’s website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations