

22 February 2021

Privacy



Thank you for your email of 12 January 2021 to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities requesting the following information on the First Home Grant scheme:

1. *Total funds distributed under the scheme by month, broken down into new builds and existing properties.*
2. *Monthly number of grants given in each of the regions as described in the price cap guide for new builds.*
3. *Monthly number of grants given in each of the regions as described in the price cap guide for existing properties.*
4. *The price caps at the inception of the scheme, what they were raised to and when those raises took effect.*
5. *Monthly percentage of First Home Grant recipients who also utilised the Welcome Home Loan scheme.*

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and I refer you to the attached tables which provide information in response to parts 1 – 3 of your request.

In response to part 4 of your request, I can advise that when the First Home Deposit Subsidy came into effect on 1 July 2010, it provided house price caps of \$400,000 in Auckland, Wellington, Queenstown Lakes and Selwyn and \$300,000 for the rest of New Zealand.

On 1 October 2013 the house price caps increased to:

- \$485,000 in Auckland
- \$425,000 in Wellington City and Queenstown Lakes
- \$400,000 in Christchurch City and Selwyn District
- \$350,000 in Thames/Coromandel, Tauranga City, Western Bay of Plenty, Hamilton City, Kapiti Coast, Porirua City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt, Tasman/Nelson, and Waimakariri
- \$300,000 for the rest of New Zealand.

On 1 April 2015 the scheme was renamed KiwiSaver HomeStart Grant and the house price caps increased to:

- \$550,000 in Auckland
- \$450,000 in Hamilton City, Tauranga City, Western Bay of Plenty District, Wellington City, Porirua City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Kapiti Coast District, Nelson City, Tasman District, Christchurch City, Selwyn District, Waimakariri District, and Queenstown Lakes District.
- \$350,000 for the rest of New Zealand.

On 1 August 2016 the house price caps increased to:

- \$600,000 (existing home) and \$650,000 (new home) in Auckland

- \$500,000 (existing home) and \$550,000 (new home) in Hamilton City, Tauranga City, Western Bay of Plenty District, Wellington City, Porirua City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Kapiti Coast District, Nelson City, Tasman District, Christchurch City, Selwyn District, Waimakariri District, and Queenstown Lakes District.
- \$400,000 (existing home) and \$450,000 (new home) for the rest of New Zealand.

On 17 September 2018 the house price caps for Queenstown Lakes increased to \$600,000 (existing homes) and \$650,000 (new home). On 18 December 2018 the house price caps for new homes in the rest of New Zealand increased from \$450,000 to \$500,000.

On 1 October 2019 the scheme was renamed the First Home Grant.

I am declining part 5 of your request under section 18(e) of the Act: *'the information requested does not exist'*.

Further information on the First Home Grant can be found on the Kāinga Ora website: <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/home-ownership/first-home-grant/>

You may also wish to contact the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for further context and information. While Kāinga Ora administers the grants, it does not set the parameters for them. Here is a link to the HUD website: <https://www.hud.govt.nz/about-hud/contact-us/>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly  
**Manager, Government Relations**