

17 MAR 2020



On 4 March 2020 the Ministry of Social Development transferred the following parts of your Official Information Act 1982 request of 19 February 2020 to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities:

- i) *What policies does Kāinga Ora have to help people keep their housing when they are incarcerated?*
- j) *How many people have benefited from Kāinga Ora policies to help people keep their housing while incarcerated?*

**What policies does Kāinga Ora have to help people keep their housing when they are incarcerated?**

Kāinga Ora does not have a policy specifically providing for our tenants to retain their state house while incarcerated. These situations are managed through tenancy management policies and the tenancy agreement - which outlines the requirement for the tenant to occupy and take responsibility for the tenancy, including paying the rent.

The incarceration of the tenancy holder is likely to preclude them from being able to meet these tenancy obligations. In such situations, Kāinga Ora first seeks to verify the status of the tenant's situation and the duration of their sentence by contacting the tenant or their family and/or Police and the Department of Corrections.

Unless the period of incarceration is short term, Kāinga Ora may seek to end the tenancy for non-occupancy/abandonment.

While Kāinga Ora aims to support our tenants to sustain their tenancies, holding properties vacant for an incarcerated tenant must be balanced against the fairness to others in need of state housing.

Where the tenancy holder is incarcerated but other household members require housing, a process will be worked through with the Ministry of Social Development to test the household members' eligibility for state housing. This could result in the tenancy being passed to the remaining family members if appropriate.

**How many people have benefitted from Kāinga Ora policies to help people keep their housing while incarcerated?**

This information is not recorded. Therefore, your request for this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982: *that the information requested is not held.*

You have the right under section 28(3) to seek an investigation by an Ombudsman about the decision. More details are available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Don Badman**  
**Acting Manager Government Relations**