

4 March 2021

Privacy



Thank you for your email of 4 February 2021 to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I request that you provide me with any policies that your agency has at all about the housing of patched gang members or associates. For the avoidance of doubt, this is not just about whether you will house them but also includes any policy about location.

Kāinga Ora does not have a policy about housing gang members. Any person who qualifies for public housing completes an assessment with the Ministry of Social Development. During their assessment, an applicant decides where they would like to live, and selects a preferred location. There is no policy about housing people in specific locations.

Our focus is to house New Zealanders based on their housing need. We do not discriminate against people that are affiliated with different groups in society, who are equally part of the community with the right to a home. Illegal gang activity is a Police matter as they have the authority to act on these concerns.

I am therefore declining your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you request does not exist.

While we do not have a general policy on gangs, our Placement Guidelines allow gang affiliation to be taken into account when matching people to a particular home. The relevant section of our guidelines reads:

Examples of where an area/neighbourhood would be considered a significant factor, resulting in [Kāinga Ora] bypassing the applicant:

- *there are compelling and sensitive issues that would make that neighbourhood clearly unsuitable for the applicant. For example: the neighbourhood consists predominantly of another ethnic group/gang who are in conflict with the ethnic group/gang of the applicant*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. 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