

15 May 2020

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Thank you for your letter dated 20 April 2020 enquiring about the efforts being undertaken by the Chief Executives of public sector organisations like Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, to limit their payroll expenditure during Covid-19.

Regarding your suggestions, I refer you to the response dated 29 April 2020 from Peter Hughes, State Services Commissioner, who replied to you on behalf of all public sector chief executives. Kāinga Ora will be following the State Services Commission guidelines around pay restraint that are discussed in this letter, which are also available online at <https://ssc.govt.nz/our-work/er/>.

Like other public sector organisations, Kāinga Ora has continued to work during the different levels of lockdown. Early on, we focussed on ensuring the wellbeing of our tenants through tens of thousands of calls, discussing their situations and arranging support, repairs and maintenance where possible.

We have also sought to provide work opportunities for our contractors and build partners. Through thorough planning and discussions, we were able to reopen close to 300 construction sites when alert level three came into effect. Looking forward with the further easing of alert levels, we will continue to support our build partners and contractors as they work to complete the over 3,000 homes contracted and under construction in the next 12 months.

For more information on this work you can visit our website at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/tenants-and-communities/covid-19-information-for-our-tenants-partners-and-suppliers/>.

I trust this information is useful. 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 online at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Don Badman
Acting Manager, Government Relations