

23 NOV 2018

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 September 2018, transferred from the Ministry of Social Development to Housing New Zealand, asking:

*"Please indicate the number of properties purpose built or planned to be built to accommodate disabilities in social housing (if any) for each of the years 2013 to 2018, in each region."*

Where possible, Housing New Zealand incorporates mobility and accessibility considerations for building new homes. We incorporate lifetime design principles such as lever taps and handles, minimum door and hallway widths, making the homes suitable to be modified later, if required. We also have standard designs for two storey houses that allow for a bedroom and bathroom at ground level for disabled family members. In at least one instance we have also purpose built a property to meet the specific needs of a disabled tenant. However, information to the level of detail you have requested is not available without substantial collation and research.

Generally, existing Housing New Zealand properties are modified to suit a particular tenant's needs. The extent and type of modifications depends on the tenant's disability, which will differ from person to person and can include accessible parking and entries, ramps, wet area showers, modified kitchens, and hand rails.

Housing New Zealand and the Ministry of Health have a Memorandum of Understanding relating to housing modifications to existing properties for people with disabilities. Any requests for modifications to houses for mobility conditions are considered by the health service providers including DHBs and/or ACC, not Housing New Zealand.

Housing New Zealand has 3,710 properties that have been modified to accommodate disability needs. Please find attached the table providing a breakdown by Territorial Authority.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of your request, which you can do at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Rachel Kelly**  
Manager, Government Relations