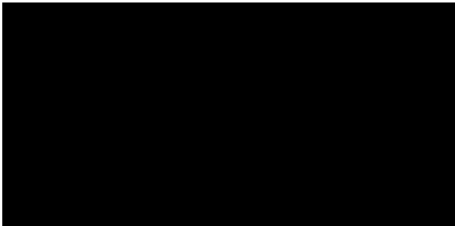


6 SEP 2019



Thank you for your email of 20 August 2019 to Housing New Zealand requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“...a copy of the agency agreement between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Housing New Zealand in relation to the monitoring of KiwiBuild properties to ensure the KiwiBuild home owners maintain their minimum period of ownership. Also, who in Housing New Zealand monitors KiwiBuild homes for compliance, any costs associated with monitoring the KiwiBuild homes and the specific processes HNZ undertakes to monitor the properties.”

I have attached the *Agency Agreement for Monitoring Purposes* between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Housing New Zealand.

Housing New Zealand is not responsible for monitoring compliance of KiwiBuild minimum ownership periods; however, it does facilitate the provision of relevant information to the KiwiBuild Unit which allows it to undertake this function.

On a fortnightly basis, HUD provides Housing New Zealand with information related to the purchase of KiwiBuild homes, which Housing New Zealand in turn provides to Information Logistics Company Limited (InfoLog). InfoLog monitors publicly available data sources, including websites and databases, for any dealings which relate to KiwiBuild properties within minimum ownership periods. The results of the InfoLog reports are then passed back to HUD to monitor compliance. The Team Leader Financial Products facilitates this process for Housing New Zealand.

Housing New Zealand already contracts with InfoLog to monitor compliance with the financial products it administers, including HomeStart Grants, the FirstHome Programme, and the former Axis homes product. Housing New Zealand and HUD benefit from this existing process to enable compliance to be monitored in an effective way.

I am withholding the costs paid to InfoLog under section 9(2)(i) of the Act to allow Housing New Zealand to ‘*carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities*’. I am also withholding staff mobile numbers in section 10(b) of the Agreement to ‘*protect the privacy of natural persons*’.

As you will be aware, the Government announced as part of its KiwiBuild reset that as at

1 October 2019, first home buyers who purchase a studio or one-bedroom home now have a 12-month ownership requirement, and buyers who purchase homes with two or more bedrooms have a three year ownership requirement.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations