

Our Ref: DOIA 23-096

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1 February 2023

[ s 9(2)(a) ]

[ s 9(2)(a) ]

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Dear [ s 9(2)(a) ]

**Response to your official information request**

Thank you for your official information request received on 14 December 2022 for unauthorised occupiers or squatters in Crown buildings for the past five years.

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) manage approximately 1,300 buildings in the LINZ estate or on behalf of other Government agencies.

From these 1,300 properties, LINZ became aware of 16 unauthorised occupiers in Crown buildings in 2021 and 9 in 2022.

LINZ did not compile details of the number of unauthorised occupiers or squatters in Crown buildings prior to 2021.

Unauthorised Occupancy	2021		2022	
	Region	Total	Region	Total
Northland		2		1
Auckland		3		0
Waikato/King Country		2		3
Taranaki		4		1
BOP		2		0
Manawatu/Rangitikei		1		1
Wairarapa		2		0
Horowhenua		0		2
Wellington/Kapiti		0		1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>9</b>

Of the 16 unauthorised occupiers in Crown buildings in 2021, 8 involved residential properties and 8 involved commercial buildings.

Of the 9 unauthorised occupiers in Crown buildings in 2022, 6 involved residential properties and 3 involved commercial buildings.

LINZ does not compile details on the length of each occupation as Toitū Te Whenua only become aware of an occupation when it is notified to us.

When informed of any unauthorised occupations, LINZ proactively works on resolving the situation. Details on what was done to remove the occupiers is refused under section 6(c) as making available the information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law by providing third parties with insights to the strategies and approaches used.

Details on damage done and occupation cost is refused under section 18(g) as LINZ does not hold such information. In this regard the properties may have been damaged prior to unauthorised occupation. Therefore, it is not possible to determine exactly what damage was done by the unauthorised occupier(s). Similarly, when repairs are made to a property, it is not possible to calculate how much was attributable to the damage that may have been caused by the unauthorised occupier(s).

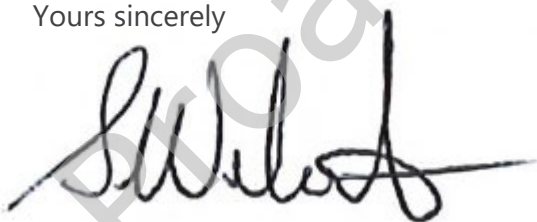
LINZ is of the view that the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make that information available.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Roger Carman at [rcarman@linz.govt.nz](mailto:rcarman@linz.govt.nz).

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 at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the LINZ website. This is likely to be published by 28 February 2023

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Wikitera', written over a large, faint, diagonal watermark that says 'Proactive Release'.

Sonya Wikitera

Head of Crown Property