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18 November 2016

Minister for Social Housing

Update on methamphetamine standards

This report provides you with information on Housing New Zealand's properties that are vacant due to methamphetamine contamination, and an update on our implementation of the Ministry of Health's (MoH's) revised guidelines.

Increase in long-term vacant properties due to methamphetamine contamination

In October 2016 there was an increase of 13 long-term vacant properties contaminated with methamphetamine in the East and South Auckland region. During this time the previous MoH guidelines were in effect, and now the revised guidelines have been implemented. A reduction in methamphetamine contaminated long-term vacant properties is expected.

The long-term effects of the revised guidelines will mean that fewer properties will become vacant due to methamphetamine contamination. For example, about 25 percent of the properties contaminated this year due to use of methamphetamine were below the revised guidelines.

Housing New Zealand also expects a reduction in our turnaround time between tenancies, as fewer properties are considered contaminated, or need less work to make them safe.

Properties coming back into service

In the Social Housing Update of 10 November 2016 we advised you that 60 properties that tested below the revised guidelines had received clearance from contractors, meaning they are safe to tenant. These properties have moved onto our short-term vacants list, which means that they will undergo an assessment to ensure the property meets our standards (such as addressing any health and safety issues or upgrading the property) before they are let to tenants.

As at 18 November 2016, 86 properties that were above the previous MoH guideline had been confirmed safe to re-tenant. Below is a breakdown of the locations of these properties.

Region	Properties
Auckland	36
Bay of Plenty	7
Christchurch/Nelson Marlborough	6
East Cape/Hawkes Bay	9
Manawatu/Taranaki/Whanganui	5

Northland	5
Southern	2
Waikato/Coromandel/King Country	3
Wellington/Hutt Valley/Kapiti Coast	13
Grand Total	86

Contractor engagement

Housing New Zealand's engagement with contractors around the revised MoH guidelines has been positive, with no significant issues identified. On 3 November 2016 Housing New Zealand held a session with all testing contractors to discuss the new guidelines and their application in Housing New Zealand properties.

All testers are now testing properties based on the revised MoH guidelines.



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Housing New Zealand Corporation

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