
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

CITY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 9.32am
Date: Wednesday, 26 September 2018
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

Business

Page No.

1.6 Kellie Watkins

1. Kellie Watkins Handout

2

Hon Phil Twyford

MP for Te Atatu
Minister of Housing and Urban Development
Minister of Transport



03 SEP 2018

Kellie Watkins
kilwtkns@gmail.com

Dear Ms Watkins

Thank you for your email dated 16 July 2018, enquiring about Income-Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS) for council housing tenants.

As you are aware, currently council housing tenants are not eligible for IRRS. You have asked me to clarify why I am not considering extending IRRS to council housing tenants during this term of government.

In the short-term I am not considering extending IRRS to local council tenants because of the significant cost required.

You may be aware of the increasing demand for public housing, and over the past few years the need for public housing has outstripped supply. In Budget 2018, the Government committed to deliver approximately 6,400 additional public housing places over the next four years. My short-term aim for public housing is to build more houses, to help address the significant growing demand for public housing across New Zealand.

Additionally, this Government is strengthening and expanding the Housing First programme as the primary response for addressing chronic homelessness. \$63.4 million is being invested to house and support more than 1,450 New Zealand's most vulnerable homeless people and families through Housing First over the next four years. Housing First services are being boosted by up to 150 places in Wellington.

I am currently setting my medium to long-term priorities for public housing, and have asked officials to review the current settings. This will include looking at the ineligibility of existing Community Housing Property tenants and local council tenants to receive IRRS, and looking at new sources of capital that local councils could access.

Thank you for writing. I hope my letter helps to clarify this matter for you.

Yours sincerely

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Housing and Urban Development