



29 APR 2019



Dear 

On 26 February 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Can you please tell me how many motels in New Zealand are being used for emergency accommodation? Can you please tell me how that number compares to five years ago? Can I have the numbers broken down into region, for both now, and five years ago (so I can compare the number region by region).*
- *Can you also tell me how much motel has been granted in the past year to provide emergency accommodation? Can you please also sort this information by region, again so I can compare.*

On 4 March 2019, you were notified that the Ministry is unable to provide information for specifically 'motels'. To retrieve this information would require someone to manually assess all grants the Ministry has provided for the past three years to identify whether a supplier is a motel. As such, your requests will be answered in relation to all accommodation provider types.

You were also notified that before the December 2016 quarter, emergency housing-related hardship grants were coded in the Ministry's IT system as 'other emergency grants' which included hardship grants for various other emergency reasons. The Ministry cannot disaggregate emergency housing hardship payments from other types of assistance before the December 2016 quarter. As such, the Ministry is unable to provide you with a five year comparison. However, we can provide you with this information for a three year period.

Additionally, you refined part two of your request to:

- *The amount motels have been granted in the past year to provide emergency accommodation broken down by region.*

On 1 July 2016, the Ministry introduced a non-recoverable Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) which is paid directly to the accommodation provider. This grant is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs. Assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights, but can be extended dependent on individual circumstances. In most cases, the grant does not need to be repaid. Please note that this covers all EH SNGs, not just those paid to motels.

Please find a table attached showing the number of accommodation providers, number of EH SNGs and the amount granted for quarters ending December 2016 and December 2018, broken down by Work and Income region.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

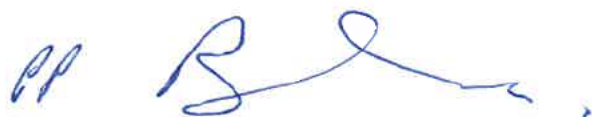
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cassandra Wise', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cassandra Wise  
**Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**

**Number of Providers, Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants and amount granted for quarters ending December 2016 and December 2018, broken down by Work and Income region.**

Work and Income Region	December 2016			December 2018		
	Count of distinct providers	Count of grants	Amount granted	Count of distinct providers	Count of grants	Amount granted
Northland	36	597	\$478,973	36	280	\$164,450
Auckland Metro	147	3,969	\$4,065,970	139	5,839	\$8,584,067
Waikato	49	851	\$885,536	74	1,829	\$2,811,283
Taranaki	17	52	\$26,658	34	124	\$73,417
Bay of Plenty	41	343	\$252,405	80	2,210	\$2,388,128
East Coast	43	762	\$571,289	41	831	\$889,670
Central	49	447	\$278,404	52	820	\$704,013
Wellington	36	394	\$243,322	53	1,452	\$2,001,320
Nelson	59	495	\$394,505	50	472	\$388,549
Canterbury	48	428	\$247,461	57	906	\$549,951
Southern	26	94	\$51,790	44	296	\$199,322
Other	160	428	\$239,476	129	617	\$740,798

**Notes:**

- This is a count of grants not a count of clients. Clients may be counted more than once in a period.
- Count of distinct providers only counts a provider once if there are multiple grants to a specific provider in a single region.
- Providers that have had an EH SNG by multiple regions will be counted once per region. Count of Distinct Providers should not be totalled up together.
- The 'Other' region includes clients managed from non-regional service centres such as the Centralised Unit Housing service centre, Studylink Processing Centre, National Office and NZ Super service centres.