



31 May 2022

Tēnā koe

On 3 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The sum, amount/value and distinct clients of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, broken down by month (or quarter) and supplier for the period September 2021 – May 2022 for the Rotorua district? This is a similar format from a previous request that would suffice.*

On 1 July 2021, contracting with emergency housing suppliers in Rotorua commenced. However, for the rest of New Zealand, the Ministry does not contract suppliers to provide emergency housing. The Ministry meets the cost of emergency housing in all locations outside of Rotorua through the Special Needs Grant programme. The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) 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. The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation supplier and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependant on individual circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. They provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. More information about EH SNGs is available at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html.

Your request follows the response you received from the Ministry on 14 December 2021. We provided an Excel spreadsheet that showed the number

granted, amount and unique clients for emergency housing special needs grants granted by Territorial Local Authority (TLA) and housing type.

Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet which provides the information you requested for the period September 2021 to March 2022 (please note we only have information to March 2022, as the May 2022 quarter is not yet available).

Please note that the TLA is estimated based on the clients' address at the time of the grant, and it may not be the same as the address of the emergency housing supplier. One registered supplier may provide accommodation across multiple premises with different trading names receiving payment through the single supplier record.

Please note that information regarding some individuals in the Excel spreadsheet are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry'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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding emergency housing in Rotorua, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui




Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**