



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

**28 OCT 2016**

Dear

On 6 October 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many times over the past three financial years has Child, Youth, and Family has put a child or a young person in a motel or a hotel, backpackers, holiday parks or some kind of paid accommodation broken down by:*
  - *Region*
  - *Year*
  - *Age group*
  - *Type of accommodation*
  - *Length of stay*
  - *Whether it was for short term care, respite care, emergency care, no family home care places were available*
  - *Did a social worker stay with child or young person*
  
- *Copies of any reports, briefings, advice, memos, updates, correspondence to the Minister's office mentioning the placement of children or young persons in hotels/motels/backpackers/holiday parks due to the lack of caregivers or places available in the past 12 months?*

Accommodation such as hotels and motels are only ever used as a placement option for children and young people in exceptional circumstances and are a temporary measure only. The decision to place a young person in such accommodation is made by the young person's social worker in consultation with their supervisor, and must be approved by a manager.

In emergency situations or where a placement is needed but no one is immediately able to house a child or young person, Child, Youth and Family may place a child in temporary accommodation. An adult minder is assigned to all children and in most cases to young people.

As you have previously been advised, in order to collate and prepare information regarding the number of young people placed into temporary accommodation, a review of hundreds of individual client files would be required. Temporary accommodation, including associated costs and supervision, is managed by the young person's allocated social worker and supervisor and documented on individual Care and Protection, Youth Justice, Residential and Adoption Services (CYRAS) records.

In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review hundreds of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

The Ministry can advise that there have been no reports, briefings, advice, memos, updates, or correspondence to the Minister's Office mentioning the placement of children or young persons in hotels/motels/backpackers/holiday parks due to the lack of caregivers or places available in the past 12 months. As such, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist.

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).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. 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



Rachel Sutherland  
**General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services**