



19 MAR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 23 January 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A breakdown of the type of accommodation costs that households are receiving Accommodation Supplement for – either rent, board, or the cost of owning - over the last 4 years for Lower Hutt.*

The Accommodation Supplement is a weekly payment to support people with the costs of rent, board or owning a home. In order to receive an Accommodation Supplement, clients must meet the eligibility criteria. You can find more information about the Accommodation Supplement at the following link:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html).

The amount granted through an Accommodation Supplement is also dependant on where a person lives. Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt are in the Accommodation Supplement Area Two.

Please find below a table containing the number of Accommodation Supplements paid to current clients in the Lower Hutt City Territorial Local Authority as at the end of December for 2016 to 2019.

**Table One: Number of Accommodation Supplements paid to current clients in the Lower Hutt City Territorial Local Authority as at the end of December for 2016 to 2019.**

| As at the end of     | Accommodation Supplement Type |          |         | Total        |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------|--------------|
|                      | Boarding                      | Own Home | Renting |              |
| <b>December 2016</b> | 2,090                         | 814      | 3,839   | <b>6,743</b> |
| <b>December 2017</b> | 2,081                         | 749      | 3,677   | <b>6,507</b> |
| <b>December 2018</b> | 2,077                         | 772      | 3,883   | <b>6,732</b> |
| <b>December 2019</b> | 2,001                         | 804      | 4,144   | <b>6,949</b> |

**Notes for Table One:**

- TLA is Territorial Local Authority.
- The TLA is based on the main applicant's residential address as at the end of each period.
- Current clients in Table One include those on Main Benefits, Pensions, and Non-Beneficiaries as at the end of December for each year.

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

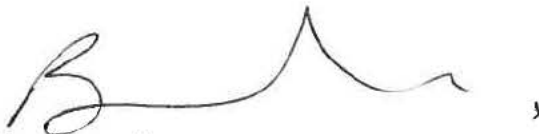
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 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



Bridget Saunders  
**Manager Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**