



11 AUG 2021

Tēnā koe

On 16 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding Dannemora Motor Inn:

- 1. A copy of the relevant documentation including the lease, rental, or motelier agreement;*
- 2. The parties to the arrangements;*
- 3. The aggregate quantum of remuneration, fees, rental, or compensation being paid by the contracting party to the motelier;*
- 4. Confirmation of the term of the arrangement.*

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 for up to 21 nights dependant on individual circumstances.

After these seven nights Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation and if another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people in emergency housing to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing and private rental accommodation. Other options including transitional housing can also be explored as an option depending on availability and the individual's 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 here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html.

The Ministry does not hold any contracts or official agreements or arrangements with any emergency housing provider. As such, question one, two, and four of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

Accommodation providers may register as suppliers with the Ministry for the sole purpose that the Ministry can pay the providers directly. This allows the Ministry to facilitate making payments directly into their bank accounts. Registering as a supplier does not create a contractual relationship between the Ministry and the supplier. Suppliers are free to cease providing services to the Ministry at their request.

The Ministry undertakes general checks when working with suppliers to ensure the legitimacy of the business. This could include checking the New Zealand Companies Register, completing an insolvency check or running an internet search to confirm they are an established accommodation provider.

Suppliers are required to provide general information such as trading name, address, phone number, bank account details, IRD number, GST number, and anything further they can provide to show the legitimacy of their business.

The accommodation supplier used is chosen on the basis of the client's household needs, and the availability of options in the area.

Regarding your question regarding total amounts paid to Dannemora Motor Inn, please see **Table One** below:

Table One: The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, Distinct Clients and Amount Granted to Dannemora Motor Inn from 1 October 2016 to 31 June 2021.

Supplier Name	Distinct Clients	Number of grants	Total amount of grants
Dannemora Motor Inn	219	969	\$2,772,693.19

Notes:

- Amount is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

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 regarding Dannemora Motor Inn with us, please feel free to contact 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Karen Hocking
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Housing