



10 February 2022

Tēnā koe

On 22 December 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Any MSD led Insights Reports into emergency accommodation, including any relating to the impact of crime, violence and/or family harm, as well as any other reports on this topic sent to or received by any other government agency.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing which may result in them receiving Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant support for an extended period of time.

There are also a distinct group of people that face a range of complex issues that are a barrier, such as mental health and addictions, criminal history, or family violence. There are still others that need to live in a specific area, due to the need to access specialist care or educational needs for them or their family.

The Ministry does not currently hold any reports relating to the impact of crime, violence and/or family harm. We are thus unable to provide you with any reports on this subject.

However, the Ministry does hold an Insights Report into Emergency Accommodation. Please find attached a report titled REP/21/9/992 - Report - *Demand for the Public Housing Register and Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants in 2021*, dated 1 October 2021.

You will note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

Additionally, some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. The greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

The names of some Ministry staff members are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The Ministry is committed to continuing to develop insights into the characteristics of Emergency Housing recipients. This includes engaging with other agencies including the Police to better understand the complexity of the challenges they face. We aim to use these insights to identify ways that we can further support the wellbeing of emergency housing clients individually and as part of the wider community.

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 MSD led Insights reports into emergency accommodation, 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



PP
Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**