



6 July 2022

Dear

On 24 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. How much has been spent on providing emergency housing for accommodation provided at Auckland Airport Motel in the past 2 years. Please provide this as a monthly breakdown of costs.*
- 2. What is the average price paid for a room in emergency accommodation at this site by MSD over the past year?*
- 3. What is the lowest and highest rate paid for a room in emergency accommodation at this location over the past year?*
- 4. How many people have stayed at this accommodation over the past year?*
- 5. Of the people who are currently residing at this motel through emergency housing support, please provide details of how long each person has been staying there or in other accommodation provided by MSD.*

The responses to your questions are below.

- 1. How much has been spent on providing emergency housing for accommodation provided at Auckland Airport Motel in the past 2 years. Please provide this as a monthly breakdown of costs.*
- 2. What is the average price paid for a room in emergency accommodation at this site by MSD over the past year?*
- 3. What is the lowest and highest rate paid for a room in emergency accommodation at this location over the past year?*

In response to these three questions, please find **Table One** in the attached spreadsheet. Please note that the table provides the amount granted, not the amount spent. The amount granted and the amount actually spent may differ in some cases, and to provide the amount spent, Ministry staff would need to look into individual case files. This would require the Ministry to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of

these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, the request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial manual collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The Ministry has considered whether it would be able to respond to the request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. The Ministry has concluded that, in either case, its ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Regarding the second and third question, the average, highest and lowest price paid per room is not held by the Ministry as the Ministry does not hold the number of rooms of this facility. To this extent, both questions are refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

4. How many people have stayed at this accommodation over the past year?

Please refer to **Table Two** in the attached spreadsheet. This table provides a household breakdown of all grants for Auckland Airport Motel in the timeframe specified. This is the closest representation of data the Ministry can provide regarding this question as the number of distinct individuals who stayed at this accommodation cannot be provided. An EH SNG may be given to a household which includes several individuals. The number of individuals included in a household is usually held in notes in client files which would require substantial manual collation, as stated above. In some cases, the number of individuals included in a household is not held by the Ministry (for example, in cases where children reside with different parents for changing periods of time).

The Ministry does not contract motels and/or hotels to provide emergency housing in New Zealand. When supporting clients to access emergency housing, the Ministry will work with accommodation suppliers that staff consider to be best suited to the individual circumstances of the client at the time. The choice of supplier reflects the needs of the client at the time accommodation is considered. The Ministry is able to meet 'the actual and reasonable costs' of emergency accommodation. The cost of the accommodation is set by the supplier based on market rates influenced by a range of factors including demand, the size of the household requiring accommodation and the region it is located in. The priority of staff is ensuring clients have somewhere to stay in the short term.

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place or residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's need. Assistance is granted for up to seven nights but can be extended, dependent on individual circumstances.

5. Of the people who are currently residing at this motel through emergency housing support, please provide details of how long each person has been staying there or in other accommodation provided by MSD.

Please refer to **Table Three** in the attached spreadsheet. This table provides you with a snapshot of data as at 31 May 2022. This snapshot covers all households that resided at this motel on 31 May 2022, broken down by the duration this household has stayed in any type of Emergency Housing.

Please refer to **Table Three** in the attached spreadsheet. This table provides you with a snapshot of data as at 31 May 2022. This snapshot covers all households that resided at this motel on 31 May 2022, broken down by the duration this household has stayed in any type of Emergency Housing.

You will note that the number of households covered is below five, therefore, the total figures have been suppressed by an 'S', as per the suppression notes in the spreadsheet. The data means that as at 31 May 2022, there were less than five households who have been staying less than 4 weeks in Emergency Housing as at 31 May, and less than five household who have been staying between 8-12 weeks.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

The 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 its 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 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.

Yours sincerely



Karen Hocking
**Group General Manager
Housing**