



20 April 2023

Tēnā koe

On 27 March 2023, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) were transferred part of a request that you made to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. The following information that was transferred to the Ministry will be considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *How many motels does MSD have contracts with nationally and in Tauranga and Rotorua in 2022, 2021 and 2020?*
2. *And for each of these years, how much was paid to these motels?*
3. *Last year nationally and in Tauranga and Rotorua how many motels had contracts with MSD or could accommodate people?*
4. *Which five motels received the most funding nationally in 2022 and 2021?*
 - a. *For how many nights were people in the motels?*
 - b. *What funding did these people get to pay for the rooms?*
5. *In Tauranga and in Rotorua which five motels for each city received the most funding in 2022 and 2021?*
 - a. *For how many nights were people in the motels?*
 - b. *What funding did these people get to pay for the rooms?*

To aid clarity, each question will be responded to in-turn.

1. *How many motels does MSD have contracts with nationally and in Tauranga and Rotorua in 2022, 2021 and 2020?*
2. *And for each of these years, how much was paid to these motels?*

The Ministry grants financial assistance to clients and pays that to suppliers on their behalf. There is no contract between the Ministry and supplier. Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EHSNG) are intended as a one-off grant. They are not able to be paid in advance of the need, or beyond what an individual is entitled to at the time of application. Given the high level of need many clients experience, subsequent grants are applied for in succession, and these are paid for up to 21 days at a time.

3. *Last year nationally and in Tauranga and Rotorua how many motels had contracts with MSD or could accommodate people?*
4. *Which five motels received the most funding nationally in 2022 and 2021?*
 - a. *For how many nights were people in the motels?*
 - b. *What funding did these people get to pay for the rooms?*
5. *In Tauranga and in Rotorua which five motels for each city received the most funding in 2022 and 2021?*
 - a. *For how many nights were people in the motels?*
 - b. *What funding did these people get to pay for the rooms.*

As mentioned, the Ministry does not have contracts with suppliers. The Ministry grants financial assistance to clients and will make payment on the client's behalf. With this in mind, please see the **Attachment** which contains the following four tables:

- **Table 1:** Suppliers that have received EHSNG payments on behalf of eligible clients nationally, in the Rotorua District, and in the Tauranga City Territorial Local Authorities from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.
- **Table 2:** List of top five suppliers that have received EHSNG payments on behalf of eligible clients nationally from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.
- **Table 3:** List of top five suppliers that have received EHSNG payments on behalf of eligible clients in Rotorua District Territorial Local Authorities from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.
- **Table 4:** List of top five suppliers that have received EHSNG payments on behalf of eligible clients in Tauranga City Territorial Local Authorities from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.

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 funding provided by the Ministry to motels in Rotorua and Tauranga, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Hocking', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking
Group General Manager
Housing