



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

31 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 9 October 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I am making enquiry on the emergency housing status of Academy of Botany Motor Inn, 4 Leixlep Lane, Botany Down. I like to know if this motel is still registered as an emergency housing provider and if it is still actively receiving payment from MSD in the year 2023?*

The current model of providing emergency accommodation that MSD is tasked with utilises Special Needs Grants (hardship payments) to pay for commercial accommodation options for people who are in urgent need of somewhere to stay.

The Ministry does not contract motels to provide emergency housing in New Zealand. Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants 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.

The Academy of Botany Motor Inn is a registered supplier with the Ministry and has received payments from the Ministry in 2023. Please see the table below showing the payments made for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants to the Academy of Botany Motor Inn by the Ministry in 2023, by month.

Table One: Total amount of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant paid to Academy of Botany Motor Inn from 1 January 2023 to 30 September 2023, by month.

Month	Total amount
January 2023	\$169,722.04
February 2023	\$219,913.80
March 2023	\$256,931.00
April 2023	\$251,145.00
May 2023	\$277,923.00
June 2023	\$274,928.00
July 2023	\$312,828.54
August 2023	\$310,883.00
September 2023	\$303,758.00

Notes:

- Emergency Housing assistance payments are granted as Special Needs Grants.
- The table shows the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.

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'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 regarding the , please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Academy of Botany Motor Inn, 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Hocking', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hocking
Group General Manager
Housing