



9 August 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 31 July 2024, requesting further clarification on the Accommodation Supplement (AS) Area of Wellington. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

The AS areas relate specifically to Statistical Area Units, as defined by Statistics New Zealand. These units are grouped into four AS areas reflecting broadly different levels of average rents for two- and three-bedroom rentals (the most common type of lettings):

- Area 1 includes areas with the highest levels of average rent.
- Area 2 includes areas with somewhat lower average rents than Area 1.
- Area 3 includes areas with generally lower rents than area 2.
- Area 4 includes any part of New Zealand not included in Areas 1, 2 or 3.

More information concerning AS Areas can be found at the following link:  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/definitions-of-areas.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/definitions-of-areas.html).

Statistical Area Units were last defined by the Government Statistician on 26 June 2017, and are not equivalent to postal address suburbs, towns or cities, despite occasionally sharing similar names.

AS Areas were last reviewed on 1 April 2018. AS maximum rates are set based on median rents for one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom (or more) private sector rental dwellings in each of the four AS Areas. The median rent information is provided by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, from tenancy bond rental data for private dwellings.

I can confirm that Wellington falls under Area 2.

For reference, this information has previously been released here:  
<https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2022/may/17052022-data-on-accommodation-supplement-from-january-2021-to-present-including-information-on-accommodation-supplement-areas.pdf>

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request for further clarification on AS Areas, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus', is positioned above the typed name.

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**