



12 August 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2024, responding to our response to you of 11 July and requesting further information about Accommodation Supplement (AS).

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

Your request for information about households receiving AS that have more than one AS recipient and numbers of AS recipients, is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this document alleged to contain the information does not exist.

It may assist if I clarify why we have refused your request.

The Ministry of Social Development pays AS to individuals rather than to households. There are a variety of living arrangements that may apply to a person receiving AS, which include but are not limited to:

- a. Boarding, including boarding houses.
- b. Renting, including joint tenancies, room-by-room tenancies, and flatmates.
- c. Home ownership.
- d. Renting part of a property occupied by the homeowner.

Because of the variety of living arrangements that exist, multiple people could live at the same property and receive AS. Each applicant's eligibility to AS is assessed individually, taking into consideration their family circumstances, type and amount of costs, and a range of other factors.

While you may be interested in the Ministry providing information under the above categories, I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I would likely have to refuse a request for AS information by variety of living arrangements

under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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, 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 nui

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**