



22 July 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2024, requesting information about a motel called Wrights by the Sea at 387 Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu, leased by Tirzah Motel Management Limited.

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

- a. The amount that has been paid to Tirzah Motel Management Limited for housing accommodation at the motel from 1 Feb 2024 until now;*
- b. The amount of money paid to Tirzah Motel Management Limited for damages or loss of income (including the dates of payment) from 1 Feb 2024 until now;*
- e. How many motels does MSD have contracts with in the Kapiti Coast District in 2024? How much was paid to these motels in the Kapiti Coast*
- f. Which five motels in the Kapiti Coast Region have received the most funding in 2024 to date? In addition a. For how many nights were people in the motels? b. What funding did these people get to pay for the rooms?*

To answer the above parts of your request, please find attached an **Appendix:** Amount paid for Emergency Housing to Tirzah Motel Management and in Kapiti Coast TLA from February 2024 to June 2024. The data provides a breakdown of the above payments between 1 February 2024 to 30 June 2024. Four tables are provided as follows:

- **Table One (answering your questions A and B):** The amount of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EHSNGs) paid to Tirzah Motel Management Limited from 1 February 2024 to 30 June 2024
- **Table Two (answering your question E):** Number of Suppliers used for Emergency Housing and the total amount granted in Kapiti Coast District TLA from 1 February 2024 to 30 June 2024

- **Table Three (answering your question E):** List of Suppliers used for Emergency Housing, total amount granted, and the number of nights granted in Kapiti Coast District TLA from 1 February 2024 to 30 June 2024
- **Table Four (answering your questions Fa and Fb):** Top 5 suppliers with highest amount granted for Emergency Housing in Kapiti Coast District TLA from 1 February 2024 to 30 June 2024

Please note, as we have previously advised you, the Ministry grants financial assistance to clients and pays that to suppliers on their behalf.

c. The terms of the Contract between the Ministry of Social Development and Tirzah Motel Management Limited;

To answer your question C, there is no contract between the Ministry and the supplier, and I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, that the document does not exist.

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.

d. Any agreement for the Ministry to pay for repairs to the land and buildings at any time at any time including at the end of the contract term.

To answer your question D, as we have previously advised you, a security deposit helps safeguard the provider against loss or damage caused by the client or anyone staying with the client. Before a security deposit payment can be made to the supplier on the client's behalf, the supplier must first discuss these costs with the client. If the client does not agree, the Ministry will not pay the security deposit on the client's behalf. Security deposits need to be agreed to by the clients and the supplier of the accommodation, and approved by the Ministry, before a client can stay with a supplier.

The security deposit is generally the equivalent of seven nights' accommodation for emergency housing suppliers. The security deposit is recoverable, and clients are required to pay this back to the Ministry at a rate that does not cause them hardship.

The security deposit represents an amount able to be claimed by the emergency housing provider to reimburse loss or damage. The security deposit can only be used to cover costs such as:

- any breakages or damages caused by the client or anyone staying with them (such as any breakages or damage to the property whether intentional or accidental)
- losses relating to failure of the client not meeting their obligations to the supplier/provider under their agreement for stay
- any loss of accommodation costs that the client fails to pay.

The security deposit does not cover the cost of refurbishing units when tenants move out or the property ceases provision of emergency accommodation or general wear and tear.

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.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request regarding emergency housing, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services