



25 June 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2024, requesting information about applications received for Accommodation Supplement in the Nelson region.

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

The Ministry cannot report on the total number of general applications received, without manually reviewing a substantial number of individual client files to find applications received or updated prior to approval or decline. As such, your request for the number of clients who '*applied for (but not necessarily received) an accommodation supplement*' is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

However, the Ministry can provide you with the number of clients receiving the Accommodation Supplement at a point in time, and the number of Accommodation Supplement applications approved and declined during the periods requested.

Please see the below **Appendix**, containing the following two tables:

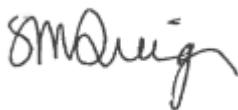
- **Table One:** The number of current clients receiving Accommodation Supplement (AS) as at the end of April 2023 and the end of April 2024 in the Nelson Work and Income region.
- **Table Two:** The number of Accommodation Supplement (AS) applications processed (grants + declines) in the Nelson Work and Income region, in the twelve months ending April 2023 and the twelve months ending April 2024.

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 Accommodation Supplement applications, 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

Appendix

Table One: Number of current clients receiving Accommodation Supplement (AS) as at the end of April 2023 and April 2024 in the Nelson Work and Income region.

April 2023	April 2024
11,748	12,459

Notes:

- This is a number of clients with Accommodation Supplement.
- This only includes clients who are currently receiving AS.
- AS is not paid for clients (main signatory and their partners) in Housing NZ Kāinga Ora accommodation or any other Community Housing Provider Property where the provider is receiving Income Related Rent (IRR)

Table Two: The number of Accommodation Supplement (AS) applications processed (grants + declines) in the Nelson Work and Income region, in the twelve months ending April 2023 and the twelve months ending April 2024.

Application action type	April 2023	April 2024
Grant	6,825	7,065
Decline	837	789
Total applications	7,659	7,854

Notes:

- This is the number of grants and declines and not number of clients.
- A client may have multiple grants or declines in the reporting period.

Confidentiality notes:

- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.