



21 November 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 24 October 2024, requesting the below information:

I am formally requesting once again for clarification on whether Sunny Visa Ltd was involved in providing emergency housing arrangements during that time. I believe these records should be available and would provide the necessary clarity I am seeking.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) can confirm Sunny Visa Ltd was not registered with the Ministry as an emergency housing provider.

Three payments were made to Sunny Visa Ltd in 2020 under the Emergency Housing Grant, however these payments were later identified as being made in error. Following the identification of these errors, no additional Emergency Housing Grants have been provided to Sunny Visa Ltd since October 2020.

The attached **Appendix** provides you with the amounts granted (in error) as Emergency Housing Grants to Sunny Visa Ltd during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 July 2022.

Sunny Visa Ltd was registered with the Ministry as a provider of accommodation services, specifically as a boarding house. This registration was for the purpose of supporting clients who qualify for assistance with bond, and rent in advance payments. Additionally, it allows for the redirection of rent payments from Ministry clients to Sunny Visa Ltd when there is a valid reason.

The Ministry has no role in monitoring the quality of private accommodation used by clients. Support services, including bond payments, are not dependent on the property's compliance status. If a client meets the qualifications for assistance, staff will assess that need based on individual circumstances.

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, 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,
pp.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Magnus O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services