



26 November 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 29 October 2024, requesting data about emergency housing applications and communications between the Ministry and the Office of Hon Tama Potaka regarding emergency housing.

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

Please see the attached **Appendix** containing a table detailing the number of emergency housing grants and declines between 1 January 2024 and 31 October 2024, by Ministry region and month.

You will note some data regarding some individuals is replaced with an 'S'. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

There were two email chains found in scope of your request for communications related to emergency housing between the Office of Hon Tama Potaka and the Ministry for the period between 22-24 October 2024.

I have provided you with a summary of the email chain dated 22 October 2024 under sections 16(1)(e) and 16(2)(c) of the Act, as providing the information to you in its original format would prejudice the interests protected by section 9(2)(g)(i), to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

On 21 October, the Office of Hon Tama Potaka contacted the Ministry as Hon Tama Potaka was planning to issue a press release on emergency housing and the progress of the Priority One Fast Track. The office asked the Ministry to factcheck the accuracy of the key facts and figures in their draft press release and draft key messages.

On 22 October, the Ministry responded with their fact check of this data. You can find the press release online, here: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/1452-children-better-homes-emergency-housing.

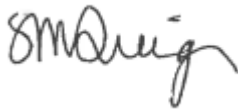
Please see attached the email chain of 24 October 2024. You will note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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 nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

From: [Elena Koefman](#)
To: [s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#)
Cc: [Ed Ablett-Hampson](#); [Karen Hocking](#); [Natasha Pavis-Hall](#); [Julia Walsh](#); [DCE_SD_Advisors \(MSD\)](#); [Office_Chief_Executive \(MSD\)](#); [s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#); [Media \(MSD\)](#); [Jerome Cvitanovich](#); [Housing_Team_ServiceDelivery \(MSD\)](#); [Kirk Te Awhe](#)
Subject: RE: EH PR - Minister Potaka
Date: Thursday, 24 October 2024 2:24:00 pm
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image005.gif](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

Kia ora Will,

Please see below lines to support:

- The emergency housing fast-track applies when all the following qualifications are met:
 - the client qualifies for social housing **and**
 - they have (or their partner has) at least 1 dependent child **and**
 - their dependent child or children qualify for and are included in their social housing assessment **and**
 - the client has been staying in emergency housing for 12 continuous weeks or more at the time MSD assesses them for the fast-track
- MSD identify clients who are eligible for the Priority One fast track as per the above eligibility criteria and if a client is eligible, the EH fast-track is added to their record in CMS (MSD's client management system).
- Once the fast-track is applied, families in this category will then wait until a suitable social housing property becomes available which matches their family's specific needs.
- The fast-track supersedes (but does not replace) the household's assessed priority rating (B9-A20), meaning that when a property that meets their needs becomes available their application will move to the top of the short-list of applicants shared with the Housing Provider.
- MSD and Kainga Ora staff are working together at both the national and local levels to ensure that whanau with a Priority One Fast-track flag are housed as quickly as possible.

Thanks,
Elena

Elena Koefman | Deputy Chief Executive Advisor | DCE Office - Service Delivery
([she/her](#)) | Ministry of Social Development | Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
Level 7, 56 The Terrace | M [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) | DDI [s9\(2\)](#) | DD [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

From: William Adams <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#)>
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 2:19 PM
To: Elena Koefman <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @msd.govt.nz](#)>
Subject: RE: EH PR - Minister Potaka

Hey Elena,

They will be doing the interview as a pre-record now at 3.45. Is there any chance of getting it a bit earlier?

Thanks,
Will

From: Elena Koefman <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @msd.govt.nz](#)>
Sent: Thursday, 24 October 2024 1:22 PM
To: William Adams <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#)>; Ed Ablett-Hampson <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @msd.govt.nz](#)>; Karen Hocking <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @msd.govt.nz](#)>; Natasha Pavis-Hall <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @msd.govt.nz](#)>; Julia Walsh <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @msd.govt.nz](#)>
Cc: DCE_SD_Advisors (MSD) <[DCE_SD_Advisors@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Office_Chief_Executive (MSD) <[Office_Chief_Executive@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Caitlin Hoskin <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @parliament.govt.nz](#)>; Media (MSD) <[media@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Jerome Cvitanovich <[s9\(2\)\(a\) @msd.govt.nz](#)>
Subject: RE: EH PR - Minister Potaka

Kia ora Will,

Request received, will come back to you by 3.30pm

Thanks,
Elena

Elena Koefman | Deputy Chief Executive Advisor | DCE Office - Service Delivery
([she/her](#)) | Ministry of Social Development | Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
Level 7, 56 The Terrace | M [S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) | DDI [S9\(2\)](#) | DD [S9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

From: William Adams <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 1:20 PM

To: Ed Ablett-Hampson <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>; Karen Hocking <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>; Elena Koefman <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>; Natasha Pavis-Hall <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>; Julia Walsh <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>

Cc: DCE_SD_Advisors (MSD) <[DCE_SD_Advisors@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Office_Chief_Executive (MSD) <[Office_Chief_Executive@msd.govt.nz](#)>; [S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz; Media (MSD) <[media@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Jerome Cvitanovich <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: EH PR - Minister Potaka

Kia ora koutou,

In response to the PR, minister has had a few requests for interviews. One interview at 4pm is with Newstalk ZB where they have indicated that they will ask the Minister specifically about the process of placing a client onto p1 and into housing, and MO have requested some lines to support.

Could I please have some very high level lines for the Minister? Along the lines of how a client goes from being in EH, to the P1 fast-track, and placed into SH?

I have talked them through, but would be good to have some official lines for the Minister to refer to.

Can we please have this by 3.30pm?

Sing out if you have any questions or issues

Ngā mihi,

William Adams (he/him)
Private Secretary – Housing (Social Development)
Office of Hon Tama Potaka | Associate Minister of Housing
Mobile: [S9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Email: [S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz
Level 4, 56 The Terrace, Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Ed Ablett-Hampson <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 4:26 PM

To: William Adams <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz>; Karen Hocking <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>; Elena Koefman <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>; Natasha Pavis-Hall <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>; Julia Walsh <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>

Cc: DCE_SD_Advisors (MSD) <[DCE_SD_Advisors@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Office_Chief_Executive (MSD) <[Office_Chief_Executive@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Caitlin Hoskin <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @parliament.govt.nz>; Media (MSD) <[media@msd.govt.nz](#)>; Jerome Cvitanovich <[S9\(2\)\(a\)](#) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: EH PR - Minister Potaka

IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Will,

Thanks for sharing the final draft. I've had a quick read and I can't see any red flags.

Assume the FAQs will give you what you need for tomorrow's friendly oral but sing out if you need anything else.

Cheers

Ed

Ed Ablett-Hampson (he / him)

Principal Advisor to the Group General Manager | Housing | Ministry of Social Development

Mob: s9(2)(a) | email: s9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz



From: William Adams <s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 3:38 PM

To: Karen Hocking <s9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Ed Ablett-Hampson <s9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Elena Koefman <s9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Natasha Pavis-Hall <s9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>; Julia Walsh <s9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

Cc: DCE_SD_Advisors (MSD) <DCE_SD_Advisors@msd.govt.nz>; Office_Chief_Executive (MSD) <Office_Chief_Executive@msd.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; Media (MSD) <media@msd.govt.nz>; Jerome Cvitanovich <s9(2)(a) @msd.govt.nz>

Subject: EH PR - Minister Potaka

Kia ora koutou,

Minister Potaka's office are intending to do this press release tomorrow, and will be bidding for a patsy question in the house.

The release is aiming for 10am, but timing is to be confirmed. This is the final version that has gone through PMO and Minister Bishop's office for approval.

Please let me know if you have any questions or issues.

Ngā mihi,

William Adams (he/him)

Private Secretary – Housing (Social Development)
Office of Hon Tama Potaka | Associate Minister of Housing

Mobile: s9(2)(a)

Email: s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

Level 4, S.L.E.V., Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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