



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

3 October 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2024, requesting information about public Housing, transitional housing and emergency housing availability and registers.

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 separately below. I have included some further information about emergency housing and transitional housing at the bottom of this letter.

On 17 September 2024, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) contacted you to advise you that your request was transferred in part to Kāinga Ora and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. Information about public housing and transitional housing availability is more closely connected with the functions of Kāinga Ora and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. You can expect a response from Kāinga Ora and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development regarding these parts of your request in due course.

I also want to request the number of emergency options that are empty and available to be used in the Wellington region as of 5/09/2024. If this information could be broken down by city that would be helpful.

The Ministry does not have a list or database of empty and available emergency housing suppliers.

The Ministry registers hardship suppliers for the purpose of facilitating payments on behalf of eligible clients. It is important to note that registered supplier status does not indicate a contractual relationship between the Ministry and a supplier, or an endorsement of the services provided. The contractual relationship is between the client receiving an Emergency Housing

Grant (EHG) and the emergency housing supplier. The Ministry's role is to grant EHG's for the cost of emergency housing.

Information about the number of empty or available rooms at a given supplier will be held by that supplier. As such, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe it is either held by or more closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

I would also like to request the number of applicants currently waiting for public, transitional, or emergency housing in the Wellington region as of 5/09/2024.

Public Housing

Public housing register data is published on a quarterly basis, and the current data is up to date as at 30 June 2024 is available through the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/housing-register.html#TheHousingRegistersinceJune20212.

Your request for this data as of 05 September 2024 is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested will soon be publicly available. The data for July to September 2024 will be published mid-October 2024.

You may find the Ministry's monthly housing reporting helpful. This provides a monthly overview of Emergency Housing and the Public Housing Register. The latest data as at 31 August 2024 is available through the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/monthly-housing-reporting.html

There is no waitlist for emergency and transitional housing. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) as the information does not exist.

Emergency Housing Grants (EHG)

The EHG is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs. The Ministry pays EHG's directly to the accommodation supplier and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependant on individual circumstances.

After these seven nights Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation and if another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people in emergency housing to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing or private rental accommodation.

Other options including transitional housing can also be explored depending on availability and the individual's circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. They provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. More information about EHGs is available at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing/index.html

Transitional Housing (TH)

Transitional housing provides warm, dry, short-term accommodation housing for people and families who do not have anywhere to live. It includes support services to help people secure a longer-term home and get back on their feet so that they are in a stronger position to stay housed. Families and individuals stay in transitional housing for an average of 12 weeks or more. In most cases, they receive a further 12 weeks support once they have found a more permanent place to live.

Transitional housing places are contracted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are managed by specialists who are skilled in providing a range of social and tenancy-related support. Transitional housing suppliers are registered as suppliers to Work and Income. This process includes providing evidence that the entity registering is the owner of the property or is authorised to act as the owner.

More information about transitional housing is available here: www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/transitional-housing/.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details removed, 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



Magnus O'Neill
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