



3 September 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2024, requesting information about Emergency Housing (EH) providers in Nelson and Tasman. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

For the sake of clarity, I have responded to each of your requests below.

- 1. How many units are available across Nelson and Tasman, How has this changed since 2020.*

The Ministry does not contract with EH suppliers. The Ministry's role is to provide financial assistance which helps eligible people pay by way of an Emergency Housing Grant (EHG) for short-term accommodation, as a last resort if they have exhausted all other options.

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

- 2. How many emergency housing providers are there in Nelson and Tasman; how has this changed each year since 2020.*

Please refer to Table 1 in the attached **Appendix** for number of EH suppliers in Nelson and Tasman Territorial Local Authority from 2020 to 31 July 2024 broken down by year.

The Ministry introduced Supplier Standards in 2023, so the amount of opted in suppliers reduced. There has also been a steady decline in households in EH over the last 2 years, therefore a reduction in motel use. A client guide was also introduced so they know what to expect from the Ministry and what is expected of them.

- 3. What are the current top 10 emergency housing providers in Nelson and Tasman, and how much income does emergency housing special needs grants earn them?*

Please refer to Table 2 in the attached **Appendix** for data on the current top ten EH suppliers in Nelson and Tasman Territorial Local Authority broken down by number of grants and amount granted.

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs and public interest in the 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 for information about EH providers in Nelson and Tasman, 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



Magnus O'Neill
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