



3 April 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2025 requesting information regarding emergency housing. Your request was transferred from Hon Tama Potaka's office to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for a response.

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

1. What have you deemed a household to be?

The term 'households' in the context of clients residing in emergency housing refers to the number of individual clients (distinct client numbers) who are receiving an Emergency Housing Grant (EHG).

This terminology was chosen because a primary client may apply for an EHG on behalf of a 'household', reflecting that specific need. The composition of a household can fluctuate throughout the period of emergency housing, as children may enter or exit care, and relationships may form or dissolve.

2. How many Men, Women, Children and Families in total both individually and grouped does this involve?

3. Are all now housed in suitable accommodation? If yes please clarify, if no, please explain.

The Ministry does not centrally record this level of emergency housing exit data. If it is held, it would be found on individual client files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files or would require the data team to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. As such, I refuse your request 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 requests 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.

The Ministry can provide information on the relative proportions of where households relocate after exiting emergency housing, specifically for those who utilise services for which it has data. Current reporting does not provide the

requested demographics breakdown of people following leaving emergency housing. However, the Ministry is continually refining its model.

The latest available figures from September 2024 show that:

- 27% of households went on to receive Accommodation Supplement.
- 29% of households went on to a social housing tenancy.
- 26% of households had moved into transitional housing.

The modelling is limited to individuals who have accessed further housing support from the Ministry or the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) after departing from emergency housing, and households are not required to inform the government of their new location or situation. For instance, the Ministry cannot identify individuals who have moved into private rentals if they have not accessed Accommodation Supplement.

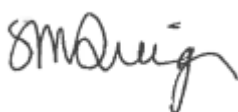
The Ministry is not responsible for monitoring or enforcement of building standards, rather the Ministry's function is limited to the payment of financial assistance. Legislation vests responsibility for the monitoring and compliance of rental accommodation with the Ministry of Business, Employment, and Innovation (MBIE), while enforcement of those standards is overseen by local Councils.

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. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services