



22 April 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 7 April 2025, requesting information about emergency housing in the Southern region.

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

- 1. The total number of applications for emergency housing in the 'Southern' region for the past 12 months, broken down by month. Please indicate, for each month, how many of these applications were accepted and how many were declined.*

Please see the below **Appendix**, detailing the emergency housing applications granted and declined in Southland District Territorial Local Authority (TLA) during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, by month.

Please note that it is difficult to compare declines of emergency housing applications pre and post August 2024. On 26 August 2024, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) introduced changes to tighten the gateway to emergency housing. This included additional decline reasons to align with the emergency housing eligibility changes and improvement in recording applications for emergency housing.

- 2. For each of the households in emergency housing in the Southern region at the time of response – what suburb, and town or city, was the accommodation based in.*

The Ministry are unable to provide you with the location of each accommodation, as businesses may provide a registered address that is different to the physical address of their service.

The Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial collation. 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.

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 regarding emergency housing in the Southern region, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written in a cursive style.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix: Emergency housing applications granted and declined in Southland District Territorial Local Authority (TLA) during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, by month.

Month	Grants	Declines	Number of Application Processed (Grants + Declines)
April 2024	110	11	121
May 2024	124	15	139
June 2024	123	11	134
July 2024	72	6	78
August 2024	71	12	83
September 2024	47	9	56
October 2024	27	15	42
November 2024	24	10	34
December 2024	12	13	25
January 2025	26	12	38
February 2025	19	22	41
March 2025	13	16	29
Total	669	153	819

General Notes:

- This is a count of grants and/or declines. A client can have more than one in a period.
- Applications processed is the number of applications granted and declined.
- Territorial Local Authority is estimated based on the clients' address recorded by the Ministry of Social Development at the time period, the client may not necessarily reside in the same address at that time.
- Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a Territorial Local Authority through suburb and city details have an unknown Territorial Local Authority.

Confidentiality Notes:

- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.