



14 February 2025

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2025, requesting that the Appendix we provided you on 17 January 2025 be updated to reflect the data available to 31 December 2024.

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

Please find attached **Appendix**: Client, grants in Emergency Housing for the period 1 November to 31 December 2024, by month.

The Ministry's practice and data capture in respect of emergency housing declines has improved, with all applications now having the result recorded, providing greater transparency for clients. However, this makes it difficult to compare data pre/post implementation of the new rules for entry into emergency housing.

The variation in decline rates is expected. When people first present for emergency housing, staff test the availability of alternative accommodation options (e.g. staying with whānau and friends) to determine eligibility for the Emergency Housing Grant. It is important to note that since the tightening of the gateway to Emergency Housing in August 2024, around 85% of all people applying for emergency housing are granted some form of housing support.

Where clients have been declined emergency housing, they may be offered other forms of assistance such as the Accommodation Supplement, Bond Grant, Moving Costs Grant, Costs (rent) in Advance Grant or Tenancy Costs Cover Grant (provides assurances to potential landlords that the Ministry will pay the applicant's outstanding costs at the end of the tenancy, if those costs exceed the amount of bond paid).

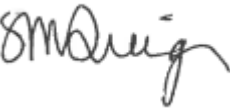
To protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. 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, 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