



27 March 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act Request**

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2025, requesting information about the number of addresses where more than one client is claiming Accommodation Supplement (AS).

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

- *How many addresses in New Zealand have more than 1 household claiming accommodation supplement payments for rent costs?*
- *Does the Ministry routinely check this information and what follow up occurs?*

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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 request 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 can confirm that Ministry processes each application for Accommodation Supplement (AS) based on each applicant's entitlement and does not routinely check whether a client receiving AS shares this address with another client also receiving AS. More information on AS can be found here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/accommodation-supplement/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/accommodation-supplement/index.html)

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request regarding the Accommodation Supplement, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.



Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**