



7 October 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 10 September 2025 requesting information about Emergency Housing applications for July and August 2025.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please see **Appendix One** attached which provides the number of Emergency Housing applications granted and declined during the period 1 July – 31 August 2025, broken down by month and region.

On 6 March 2024, Ministers made an announcement to end the large-scale use of emergency housing (EH), and to strengthen processes for those entering EH. Details are here: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/first-steps-taken-end-emergency-housing.

A new rules-based system related to EH was introduced on 26 August 2024, which requires that where someone asks for help with housing, the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry's) first move is to look at all their options to avoid homelessness.

When people ask for help with EH, staff test the availability of alternative accommodation options first before they determine their eligibility for the Emergency Housing Grant (EHG).

EH is a last resort. If someone who applies is eligible for another, more suitable type of support, such as transitional housing or other accommodation such as private rentals, we will assist with that instead.

Under the guidance introduced on 26 August 2024, the Ministry may decline a person's application for EH if their situation was a result of their own actions (or people they were responsible for, such as visitors). Examples include:

- Someone who has voluntarily left their existing accommodation or tenancy without organising a new place to live. (Note: those leaving housing

because they are experiencing family violence will not be considered to have caused or contributed to their immediate emergency housing need).

- Someone having to leave their accommodation because they intentionally damaged the property.
- Someone having to leave their accommodation because they engaged in anti-social behaviour such violence or theft.

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

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services