

28 June 2023

Tēnā koe

On 11 May 2023, you contacted Kāinga Ora requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information: *the average weekly rent paid by your clientele per dwelling for:*

- *housing where exactly 2 people lived,*
- *in the Hutt Valley*
- *where the people stayed for 6 months or less*
- *starting after May 2021 and ending before August 2022*

On 23 May 2023, Kāinga Ora transferred the request to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

As the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) deals with emergency housing, this aspect of your request was transferred to us in part to respond to. HUD will respond to the transitional housing part of your request.

On 2 June 2023, the Ministry contacted you about refining your request. We noted that the Ministry cannot provide averages for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNGs) but can provide the number and amount of EH SNGs paid to households with 2 adults and no children who spent 6 months or less in Emergency Housing in the Lower Hutt City Territorial Local Authority, by month.¹

On 5 June 2023, you responded to the Ministry and advised that you were wanting information on the amount that individuals contribute towards their accommodation costs. You also advised that the amount did not have to be a weekly average but did need to be in the closest form possible, with the objective of working out the weekly average.

Clients who qualify for EH SNGs must pay an emergency housing contribution. This is an amount they pay towards their emergency housing costs. The amount payable is 25% of their net income or 25% of the appropriate Jobseeker Support rate, whichever is higher.

In response to your request, I am unable to provide you with information on the amount paid by clients towards emergency housing costs as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information,

¹ Six months or less means 26 or less consecutive weeks. Consecutive weeks are calculated based on the check in and check out dates for emergency housing.

Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. 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 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 concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

For more information on the contributions made by clients to partly cover the cost of Emergency Housing, please see the information at the links below:

- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/emergency-housing/emergency-housing-contribution.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/emergency-housing/payment.html>

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

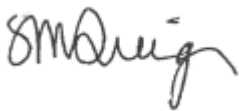
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 this response, 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



Sarah Quigan
Manager
Official Information