



12 January 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2023, requesting information about Ministry clients in the Southern Cross Apartment building at 35 Abel Smith Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

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

How many apartments are tenanted by MSD clients in the Southern Cross Apartment building at 35 Abel Smith Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

There are no Ministry clients receiving a Main Benefit or Supplementary Assistance residing at this address.

What agency do MSD lease these apartments from?

Please note that the Ministry does not lease apartments.

Did MSD do due diligence when it came to placing their clients in this apartment building? For example there are a lot of young females who live alone in this building.

Did MSD have any contact with the building management company Alive Building Solutions to ensure the building was suitable for MSD clients?

Did MSD make apartment owners aware that their tenants would be residing in this apartment building? That is all owners of every apartment in the building as well as the actual owners of the apartments rented to MSD Clients, not just the rental agency but the titled owner.

What care and protection has MSD put in place for the other tenants in the building, the young females who live alone, the families with young children?

There are currently no Ministry clients in receipt of a benefit who reside at 35 Abel Smith Street.

Please note, the Ministry has no power to tell people where they should live, inspect their living arrangements, inspect buildings, or monitor compliance with building regulations.

Ministry staff provide people with advice about their options and assess eligibility for financial assistance.

Are any of the MSD clients in this building 501 deportees?

Do any of the MSD clients in this building have criminal records?

As noted, there are currently no Ministry clients in receipt of a benefit who reside at 35 Abel Smith Street.

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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Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services