



18 June 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

On 22 May 2026, the Ministry of Justice transferred your request for information to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), to respond to. You requested the following information:

- *The number of Emergency housing Special Needs Grants applications received from April 2025-April 2026. Of these applications, please provide me with total numbers of how many were approved and how many were declined, including percentages.*
- *Please also provide the approval/decline numbers per month and whether these were provided to people in the North or South Island.*

When someone requests emergency housing assistance, the Ministry's first move is to look at all their options to avoid homelessness. Staff will test the availability of alternative accommodation options first before they determine the person's eligibility for the Emergency Housing (EH) Grant.

The most common reason for declining a person's EH application is because their need can be met in another way. This could include providing the person with financial assistance, such as a Housing Support Product, to help them sustain their existing tenancy, help with identifying and meeting the cost of a new rental property, or a referral to a transitional housing provider.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982. Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which provides the number and percentage of Emergency Housing grants and declines from 1 April 2025 to 30 April 2026 by month and MSD region.

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