



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

20 JAN 2017

Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)



Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)

Dear 

On 30 November 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *All the emails and any other correspondence from October 20 2016 to November 20 2016 received by the Roderique Hope Trust in relation to the 21 Taunui St property in New Plymouth – email address roderiquehope@gmail.com*

On 5 December 2016 your request was refined to include emails sent from the Roderique Hope Trust to the Ministry.

Emergency housing is short-term accommodation for individuals and families who urgently need somewhere to stay. This provides those individuals with a stable place to stay while their needs can be understood and addressed and long-term accommodation can be found. Emergency housing can include staying with friends and family, community-based emergency housing providers or temporary accommodation like a hostel or motel.

The Roderique Hope Trust is a Charitable Trust in the Taranaki region which was specifically formed to meet the needs of families with children who do not meet the criteria of other Emergency Housing accommodation. Residents can reside at the accommodation for up to three months and are encouraged to engage with the local services in the area of Family Violence, Budgeting and Counselling and Family Support.

Information about the Roderique Hope Trust is publically available at: www.roderiquehopetrust.co.nz/about/

The Ministry does not contract directly with Roderique Hope Trust. The Ministry has an Emergency Housing contract with one of the Roderique Hope Trust's subsidiary organisations, Tu Tama Wahine O Taranaki. Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki is a kaupapa Māori common good organisation with over 25 years of experience in delivering health and social services across the Taranaki region. Tu Tama Wahine is working with the Roderique Hope Trust to provide accommodation and support for whānau who are facing a housing crisis. The property at 21 Taunui Street is one of

the contracted emergency housing places. For the purposes of your request, Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki is considered within scope of your request.

Information about Tu Tama Wahine O Taranaki is publically available at: www.tutamawahine.org.nz/about

Enclosed is the following document that is in scope of your request:

- Email, 'RE: Emergency Housing – 21 Tainui Street', dated 21 November 2016 and 16 November 2016.

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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 shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachment on the Ministry of Social Development'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.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher
Deputy Chief Executive, Social Housing

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

From: Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 21 November 2016 2:37 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Emergency Housing - 21 Tainui Street

Kia ora ano 9(2)(a)

We have now reached an agreement with the Land Owner of 21 Tainui Street and have formally exited out of the lease for those premises. We would therefore like to request a variation to the current outcome agreement removing 21 Tainui Street house and unit from the list of Emergency Housing premises contracted by Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki.

Can you please advise how to go about this process and who I should make contact with to discuss variation and redirecting the necessary payments to the Ministry.

Nga mihi

Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)

From: Privacy of another: section 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2016 5:41 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a)@msd.govt.nz'
Subject: Emergency Housing - 21 Tainui Street

Kia ora Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons

Thank you for making contact. Just to confirm, as discussed our partners Roderique Hope Trust are currently exploring options to exit the lease agreement for 21 Tainui Street on the grounds that the premises cannot be utilised safely for the purposes we intended (Emergency Housing). This is sadly due to various statements made by some residents on Tainui St who have vehemently publicly stated they do not want even short term emergency housing near them and will do whatever it takes to discourage the individuals who may be placed there and have threatened legal action against the Trust in relation to potential equity loss of their properties.

We do not believe Tainui St to be a safe environment which is conducive to healing. We believe we have an ethical duty of care to consider the physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual safety and privacy of clients who would be residing on the premises and as such also support the Trusts decision to explore the possibility to exit the current lease agreement with the owner of the property. Whilst we do not think the task of gaining community buy-in and support for the idea of Emergency Housing on Tainui Street is unsurmountable, we do believe that this would take considerable time, energy and capacity to re-educate this community and dispel some of the entrenched stereotyping that has been exhibited in relation to the poor, blended families or families experiencing family violence or hardship.

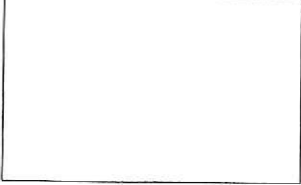
I will keep you informed as to the outcome of discussions regarding the lease.

Nga mihi

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Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of natural persons



www.tutamawahine.org.nz

He Tupuna he mokopuna. Ma wai e whakakii i nga whawharua o nga Tupuna? Ma o tatou mokopuna! He mokopuna he Tupuna.

Respect your whakapapa by caring for our children. Respect our whakapapa by caring for your children.

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Statements in this email and attachments do not necessarily reflect the views of Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki Inc

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT