



Dear [REDACTED]

On 19 March 2019, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information relating to the Tauranga area:

- 1. How much money has the government spent on providing emergency housing to people in need in the last 5 years?*
- 2. How many people is the government currently providing emergency housing to?*
- 3. How many of these people were on the benefit or receiving government assistance?*

The Ministry helps those with nowhere to stay. Anyone who urgently needs somewhere to stay tonight, or within the next seven days, can call 0800 559 009. The Ministry can help with rent arrears, with referrals to transitional housing providers, and with payments towards temporary accommodation.

Your request has been interpreted to refer specifically to expenditure on Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (SNGs).

The Emergency Housing SNG was introduced on 1 July 2016 in order to fund temporary accommodation at places such as hostels and motels to meet people's immediate housing needs. In most cases, this does not need to be paid back, though this will depend on a household's income.

Prior to the 2016 December quarter, emergency housing grants were coded in the Ministry's IT system as 'other emergency grants', which includes hardship grants for various other emergency reasons. The Ministry cannot disaggregate emergency housing hardship payments from other types of assistance granted under the 'other emergency grants' category and any information regarding emergency housing grant payments prior to the December 2016 quarter is recorded in notes on individual case files. As such, information relating to the value of Emergency Housing prior to December 2016 is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request more fully given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

However, the Ministry can provide the value of the Emergency Housing SNGs from the December 2016 quarter to the most recently reported quarter, December 2018. Please find enclosed the following two tables:

- Total number of Emergency Housing SNGs, total amount granted, and the number of distinct clients for selected Work and Income service centres in the Tauranga area during the period 01 October 2016 to 31 December 2018 by quarter end, and Work and Income Service Centre
- Total number of Emergency Housing SNGs granted, by benefit type, total amount granted, and the number of distinct clients for selected Work and Income service centres in the Tauranga area during the period 01 October 2016 to 31 December 2018 by quarter end.

A number of very low figures have been suppressed in the second table in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Because the Ministry provides various types of assistance, the data in the second table around benefit type could include duplications. Some clients have had grants to multiple sites in the quarter and as such will be counted as a distinct client for each site. Additionally, some clients have had grants with multiple benefit types in the quarter, and as such will be counted as a distinct client for each benefit type in the relevant quarter. For example, a client receiving Jobseeker support might receive an Emergency Housing SNG in October and then transfer to the Supported Living Payment in November and receive another Emergency Housing SNG in December.

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 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 regarding in emergency housing in Tauranga, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wise', with a small blue mark to the right.

Cassandra Wise
Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Table 1: Total Number of Emergency Housing SNGs granted, total amount granted, and the number of distinct clients for selected Work and Income service centres in the Tauranga area during the period 01 October 2016 to 31 December 2018 by quarter end and Work and Income Service Centre.

Quarter End	Work and Income Service Centre									Total		
	Tauranga			Mount Maunganui			Greerton			Overall Distinct Clients	Total Granted	Amount Granted
	Distinct Clients	Total Granted	Amount Granted	Distinct Clients	Total Granted	Amount Granted	Distinct Clients	Total Granted	Amount Granted			
Dec-16	18	53	\$36,411	12	20	\$16,434	21	38	\$21,369	48	111	\$74,214
Mar-17	18	44	\$33,072	15	24	\$21,342	28	56	\$39,258	54	124	\$93,672
Jun-17	32	78	\$61,312	32	126	\$123,979	28	55	\$49,780	85	259	\$235,071
Sep-17	36	112	\$79,789	24	55	\$41,888	28	56	\$41,172	84	223	\$162,849
Dec-17	35	70	\$62,703	19	43	\$36,766	44	87	\$63,042	89	200	\$162,511
Mar-18	14	39	\$36,841	8	24	\$15,684	32	61	\$46,916	54	124	\$99,441
Jun-18	36	100	\$82,672	19	39	\$28,579	49	131	\$126,207	97	270	\$237,458
Sep-18	75	210	\$180,427	21	53	\$46,281	60	180	\$164,846	150	443	\$391,554
Dec-18	73	315	\$304,268	29	90	\$97,068	66	234	\$248,752	156	639	\$650,088

Table 2: Total Number of Emergency Housing SNGs granted, by benefit type, total amount granted, and the number of distinct clients for selected Work and Income service centres in the Tauranga area during the period 01 October 2016 to 31 December 2018 by quarter end.

Quarter End	Benefit Type	Distinct Clients	Total Granted	Amount Granted
Dec-16	No Bft	S	S	\$5,058
	NZS	S	S	\$2,065
	SLP	6	28	\$17,843
	JS	13	19	\$10,250
	Non-ben	9	17	\$13,502
	Other	S	S	\$1,125
	SPS	18	35	\$24,371
Mar-17	No Bft	S	S	\$4,170
	SLP	S	6	\$4,084
	JS	23	53	\$43,961
	Non-ben	7	9	\$4,730
	Other	S	S	\$1,155
	SPS	19	49	\$35,572
Jun-17	No Bft	6	S	\$12,522
	SLP	7	28	\$22,101
	JS	30	72	\$56,584
	Non-ben	11	23	\$22,655
	Other	S	S	\$1,343
	SPS	36	124	\$119,866
Sep-17	No Bft	S	S	\$3,983
	NZS	S	S	\$385
	SLP	11	30	\$22,521
	JS	33	94	\$71,575
	Non-ben	13	34	\$15,269
	Other	S	S	\$700
	SPS	28	56	\$47,867
	YP/YPP	S	S	\$550
Dec-17	No Bft	7	S	\$6,025
	NZS	S	S	\$1,128
	SLP	10	33	\$18,929
	JS	37	87	\$72,533
	Non-ben	15	24	\$21,477
	SPS	24	46	\$42,420
Mar-18	No Bft	S	S	\$4,969
	NZS	S	S	\$1,795
	SLP	S	S	\$6,790
	JS	19	51	\$38,524
	Non-ben	S	12	\$10,247

Quarter End	Benefit Type	Distinct Clients	Total Granted	Amount Granted
Mar - 18	Other	S	10	\$7,145
	SPS	17	35	\$29,971
Jun-18	No Bft	7	S	\$6,727
	NZS	S	S	\$1,925
	SLP	8	23	\$20,424
	JS	42	132	\$115,618
	Non-ben	15	25	\$17,035
	SPS	30	78	\$75,624
	YP/YPP	S	S	\$105
Sep-18	No Bft	12	19	\$17,004
	NZS	S	S	\$1,365
	SLP	16	46	\$35,405
	JS	79	215	\$182,562
	Non-ben	22	53	\$46,306
	Other	S	S	\$12,600
	SPS	36	96	\$96,312
Dec-18	No Bft	13	16	\$13,131
	NZS	S	11	\$9,006
	SLP	19	82	\$74,842
	JS	76	328	\$321,004
	Non-ben	19	35	\$39,065
	Other	S	6	\$6,915
	SPS	40	161	\$186,125

Note:

- The tables reflect figures for Tauranga, Mount Maunganui and Greerton Service Centres.
- Some clients have had grants to multiple sites in the period and as such will be counted as a distinct client for each site.
- Some clients have had grants with multiple benefit types in the period and as such will be counted as a distinct client for each benefit type.
- The total granted is a count of grants not a count of clients, clients may be counted multiple times in a period if multiple grants exist.
- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
- No Bft are clients with no current benefit.
- NZS is New Zealand Superannuation.
- SLP is Supported Living Payment.
- JS is Jobseeker Support.
- Non-Ben is Non-Beneficiary assistance.
- Other benefit contains Unsupported Childs Benefit, Emergency Maintenance Allowance, Emergency Benefit, Job Seeker Student Hardship.
- SPS is Sole Parent Support.
- YP/YPP is Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment.