



Dear 

On 24 May 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information, each quarter for the past ten years:

- *the number of people receiving the Accommodation Supplement (AS)*
- *the amount in payments*
- *the proportion of people receiving the maximum Accommodation Supplement.*

You also requested the same data for:

- *Temporary Additional Support (TAS)*
- *Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS)*
- *Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG).*

As per the phone conversation on 25 June 2019, you were advised that the Ministry does not record the maximum amount for TAS, IRRS and EH SNG. You confirmed that you are happy to be provided with the number of recipients and the amount in payments for each.

The Accommodation Supplement is a non-taxable benefit that provides assistance towards accommodation costs. It is available for people who rent, board or own their own home and a person does not have to be receiving a benefit to qualify. It is calculated using a formula that takes into account the geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income and tenure type (renting, boarding or home ownership).

Please note that on 1 April 2018, the maximum rates for Accommodation Supplement increased. Further information is available about this increase on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/benefit-rates/benefit-rates-april-2018.html.

Please find enclosed table one showing the number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of each quarter from March 2010 to March 2019 whether at the maximum Accommodation Supplement, including the total weekly amount paid.

The Temporary Additional Support (TAS) is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for a maximum of 13 weeks. It is paid as a last resort to help clients with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their chargeable income and other resources. Further information about TAS is available on the Work

and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/temporary-additional-support.

Please find enclosed table two showing the number of Temporary Additional Support recipients as at the end of each quarter from March 2010 to March 2019, including the total weekly amount paid.

The Social Housing register, which included the Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS), was transferred to the Ministry in April 2014. Income Related Rent (IRR) is the subsidised rent scheme for social housing tenants with low incomes. The rate of IRR is calculated based on a household's assessable income and their household type. IRRS is the portion paid by the Ministry and is the difference between the calculated IRR for the client's household and the approved market rent rate. Further information regarding IRRS is available on the Ministry's Housing website at: <http://www.housing.ms.govt.nz/>.

Please find enclosed table three showing the number of Income Rent Related Subsidy tenancies as at the end of each quarter from September 2015 to March 2019, including total weekly amount paid. Please note that the Ministry is only able to report on housing data from mid-August 2015. For information prior to this date you may wish to make a request under the Act with Housing New Zealand here: www.hnzc.co.nz/make-an-oia-request/.

On 1 July 2016, the Government introduced a non-recoverable Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) to help people who need emergency housing. This EH SNG is payable for up to seven days to help individuals and families with emergency housing needs, while the Ministry works with the individual to investigate alternative housing options. In most cases this grant does not need to be repaid.

Further information regarding EH SNGs is available on the Housing Assessment webpage of the Ministry of Social Development website: www.housing.ms.govt.nz/forms/factsheets/urgently-need-accommodation.

Please find enclosed table four showing the number of Emergency Housing grants as at the end of each quarter from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019, including the total amount paid.

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 about statistics regarding Accommodation Supplement, Temporary Additional Support, Income Related Rent Subsidy and Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, 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 black ink, appearing to read 'C. Wise', written in a cursive style.

Cassandra Wise
Manager, Issues Resolution, Service Delivery

Table 1: The number of Accommodation Supplement recipients as at the end of each quarter from March 2010 to March 2019, broken down by whether it is paid at the maximum rate and the total weekly amount paid

As at end of quarter	At the Maximum Accommodation Supplement						Total	
	No			Yes			Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount
	Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount	Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount	Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount		
Mar 2010	205,984	\$11,439,328	103,277	\$9,551,548	309,261	\$20,990,875		
Jun 2010	209,362	\$11,617,184	107,697	\$9,914,680	317,059	\$21,531,864		
Sep 2010	211,912	\$11,728,014	111,566	\$10,249,433	323,478	\$21,977,446		
Dec 2010	215,597	\$11,889,102	114,507	\$10,566,761	330,104	\$22,455,862		
Mar 2011	199,271	\$11,393,649	111,057	\$10,241,142	310,328	\$21,634,791		
Jun 2011	195,798	\$11,208,756	112,753	\$10,381,149	308,551	\$21,589,905		
Sep 2011	195,528	\$11,194,547	114,878	\$10,548,665	310,406	\$21,743,213		
Dec 2011	203,258	\$11,501,758	119,207	\$10,977,159	322,465	\$22,478,917		
Mar 2012	192,341	\$11,040,097	113,759	\$10,490,644	306,100	\$21,530,741		
June 2012	189,292	\$10,876,978	114,825	\$10,609,907	304,117	\$21,486,885		
Sep 2012	188,491	\$10,788,916	117,747	\$10,867,936	306,238	\$21,656,853		
Dec 2012	195,124	\$11,082,224	120,586	\$11,153,735	315,710	\$22,235,960		
Mar 2013	180,864	\$10,350,851	116,488	\$10,804,677	297,352	\$21,155,529		
June 2013	181,417	\$10,305,032	117,725	\$10,903,751	299,142	\$21,208,784		
Sep 2013	179,146	\$10,176,904	118,033	\$10,928,960	297,179	\$21,105,864		
Dec 2013	186,850	\$10,474,363	120,964	\$11,197,057	307,814	\$21,671,419		
Mar 2014	173,551	\$9,816,343	117,426	\$10,888,862	290,977	\$20,705,205		
Jun 2014	172,211	\$9,699,526	117,898	\$10,897,666	290,109	\$20,597,192		
Sep 2014	172,154	\$9,674,430	120,392	\$11,113,554	292,546	\$20,787,984		
Dec 2014	176,717	\$9,837,461	123,809	\$11,412,396	300,526	\$21,249,857		

Table continued overleaf.

As at end of quarter	At the Maximum Accommodation Supplement						Total	
	No			Yes			Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount
	Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount	Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount	Number of recipients			
Mar 2015	166,855	\$9,303,459	119,418	\$11,041,127	286,273	\$20,344,586		
June 2015	167,531	\$9,321,771	122,004	\$11,251,451	289,535	\$20,573,222		
Sep 2015	168,625	\$9,341,146	124,945	\$11,476,290	293,570	\$20,817,436		
Dec 2015	171,695	\$9,420,940	129,120	\$11,836,186	300,815	\$21,257,126		
Mar 2016	162,400	\$9,012,899	124,038	\$11,387,458	286,438	\$20,400,357		
Jun 2016	161,482	\$8,942,447	126,282	\$11,570,819	287,764	\$20,513,266		
Sep 2016	161,806	\$8,900,387	129,546	\$11,823,560	291,352	\$20,723,947		
Dec 2016	163,303	\$8,912,672	134,338	\$12,233,593	297,641	\$21,146,265		
Mar 2017	155,203	\$8,489,435	129,971	\$11,866,589	285,174	\$20,356,024		
Jun 2017	153,265	\$8,383,414	131,307	\$11,940,345	284,572	\$20,323,759		
Sep 2017	151,801	\$8,276,420	133,684	\$12,123,993	285,485	\$20,400,413		
Dec 2017	153,668	\$8,352,239	137,966	\$12,548,551	291,634	\$20,900,789		
Mar 2018	169,146	\$11,303,159	110,137	\$15,020,156	279,283	\$26,323,315		
Jun 2018	219,049	\$18,582,931	65,637	\$8,523,771	284,686	\$27,106,702		
Sep 2018	221,749	\$18,822,779	70,257	\$9,164,130	292,006	\$27,986,909		
Dec 2018	226,592	\$19,234,593	76,248	\$10,023,651	302,840	\$29,258,244		
Mar 2019	218,345	\$18,544,048	77,065	\$10,187,965	295,410	\$28,732,013		

Table 2: The number of Temporary Additional Supplement recipients as at the end of each quarter from March 2010 to March 2019 and the total weekly amount paid

As at end of quarter	Number of recipients	Total Weekly amount
Mar 2010	49,435	\$2,379,915
Jun 2010	53,021	\$2,558,768
Sep 2010	54,725	\$2,661,693
Dec 2010	53,410	\$2,613,243
Mar 2011	53,172	\$2,638,515
Jun 2011	52,439	\$2,647,116
Sep 2011	53,579	\$2,718,260
Dec 2011	54,826	\$2,797,467
Mar 2012	54,199	\$2,836,275
June 2012	53,167	\$2,797,641
Sep 2012	54,517	\$2,893,687
Dec 2012	55,088	\$2,929,354
Mar 2013	53,037	\$2,866,969
June 2013	54,019	\$2,924,344
Sep 2013	54,333	\$2,966,238
Dec 2013	56,716	\$3,087,173
Mar 2014	55,799	\$3,091,293
Jun 2014	55,229	\$3,080,440
Sep 2014	57,920	\$3,251,046
Dec 2014	56,898	\$3,233,219
Mar 2015	55,627	\$3,204,824
June 2015	57,364	\$3,331,190
Sep 2015	59,859	\$3,480,741
Dec 2015	60,582	\$3,569,187
Mar 2016	57,902	\$3,486,518
Jun 2016	60,459	\$3,657,117
Sep 2016	62,718	\$3,824,234
Dec 2016	65,172	\$4,013,000
Mar 2017	63,392	\$3,968,684
Jun 2017	64,499	\$4,082,582
Sep 2017	66,676	\$4,242,923
Dec 2017	69,751	\$4,473,759
Mar 2018	60,589	\$2,914,144
Jun 2018	58,763	\$3,006,023
Sep 2018	58,778	\$3,016,335
Dec 2018	62,804	\$3,292,316
Mar 2019	62,482	\$3,357,645

Table 3: The number of Income Related Rent Subsidy tenancies as at the end of each quarter from September 2015 to March 2019 and the total weekly amount paid

As at end of quarter	Number of tenancies	Total Weekly amount
Sep 2015	60,685	\$13,866,329
Dec 2015	61,471	\$14,439,141
Mar 2016	58,110	\$13,774,561
Jun 2016	60,951	\$14,905,830
Sep 2016	61,392	\$15,247,924
Dec 2016	61,905	\$15,538,078
Mar 2017	61,357	\$15,626,350
Jun 2017	62,926	\$16,283,999
Sep 2017	63,299	\$16,680,251
Dec 2017	63,482	\$16,976,575
Mar 2018	63,970	\$17,406,445
Jun 2018	64,312	\$17,862,514
Sep 2018	64,730	\$18,145,151
Dec 2018	65,225	\$18,413,307
Mar 2019	65,658	\$18,822,387

Notes:

- The Ministry's reporting on IRRS is approximated based on the tenants' assessed Income Related Rent. While it gives an indication of who is eligible to receive IRRS, it may not be the same number of households that are actually receiving IRRS, or the exact amount of subsidy being paid. There is a delay from when a change to a client's IRR affects their actual receipt of that subsidy. As such, numbers from IRRS invoices will differ.

Table 4: The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant recipients and the total amount paid, as at the end of each quarter between 31 December 2016 to 31 March 2019

Quarter ending	Number of recipients	Total amount
Dec 2016	8,860	\$7,735,788
Mar 2017	9,218	\$8,835,087
Jun 2017	11,446	\$12,609,686
Sep 2017	9,159	\$8,964,440
Dec 2017	6,172	\$6,566,960
Mar 2018	6,138	\$6,574,733
Jun 2018	9,245	\$10,414,939
Sep 2018	14,017	\$15,931,192
Dec 2018	15,676	\$19,494,969
Mar 2019	17,264	\$23,079,536

Notes:

- This is a count of clients, not grants. Clients can receive more than one grant in a period.
- Clients can be counted in multiple quarters if they have had a grant in more than one quarter.
- Amount is amount granted, which may be different to amount spent.