



[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

On 10 May 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982; the following information relating to the business, namely Workotel, situated at 15-19 Main South Road Christchurch:

- 1. Total number of referrals from the 1 January 2019 – to date.*
- 2. The number of Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ) referrals who have setup an automatic deferred payment plan, from their WINZ account straight into the Workotel bank account during the period 1 Dec 2016 – to date.*

Question one has been interpreted as the number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EH SNG's) paid in respect of people staying at Workotel for the quarter ending 31 March 2019.

There were 21 EH SNG's provided to 18 clients staying at Workotel, in the quarter ending 31 March 2019. Please note that a client can have more than one grant in a time period and clients may have had grants in the same period to another provider as well.

The amount granted for the quarter ending 31 March 2019 was \$6,336. The amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.

In some circumstances, a client may request for a redirection of part of their benefit to meet accommodation costs. The Ministry can advise that as at 31 March 2019, there were 26 active redirections to Workotel. The Ministry reports this data as at a point in time therefore, the Ministry is unable to advise the total number of redirections over the period 1 December 2018 to 31 March 2019. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the 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 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.

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 Workotel, 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



Cassandra Wise

Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery