



23 MAR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 28 February 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), statistics for the last five years for the following:

- *Dollar amount of bonds financed by WINZ for Housing New Zealand (HNZ) properties per year.*
- *Dollar amount of bonds financed by WINZ for private landlord properties per year.*
- *Average rent per lease per region for private landlord properties where WINZ supplemented the bond.*
- *Dollar amount the NZ Government has spent financing or supplementing bonds for residential housing.*

Financial assistance may be available to help people pay for tenancy bond as long as they meet the income and asset test, and they are unable to meet the cost from any other source. This hardship assistance includes Advance Payment of Benefit (Advance) or Recoverable Assistance Payment (RAP):

- An Advance is a recoverable payment available to people receiving a main benefit that require assistance to meet a particular immediate need for an essential item.
- RAPs are recoverable financial assistance to non-beneficiaries to meet essential immediate needs for specific items or services.

Housing Support Products are also available to clients as a set of individual products that aim to address barriers to accessing or retaining housing by meeting needs not covered by other forms of assistance. This can include a Bond Grant and Moving Assistance.

Additional information about assistance for bond is available on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/move-house/bond-and-rent-in-advance/index.html and www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/housing-support-products/index.html.

Please find attached a table which shows the total number and amount of bonds granted by Work and Income for the years 2015 to 2019, broken down by bond type and year.

You may note that there is a large drop in the number of Housing New Zealand bonds paid between the years 2018 and 2019. This is because there are more Community Housing Providers (CHP) being used for social housing.

I am unable to provide you with data regarding private landlord properties as information regarding whether or not somebody is a private landlord is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, I refuse your request 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 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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this response 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 regarding tenancy bonds granted by Work and Income 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



Bridget Saunders
Manager Issue Resolution Service Delivery

Total number and amount of bonds granted by Work and Income for the years 2015 to 2019, broken down by bond type and year.

Type of grant	Provider paid	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
		Number	Total amount	Number	Total amount	Number	Total amount	Number	Total amount	Number	Total amount
HSP Bond Grant	HNZ	S	\$548	0	\$0	S	\$996	9	\$5,116	0	\$0
	Other	S	\$426,404	982	\$1,201,527	S	\$1,669,669	1,307	\$1,763,353	1,764	\$2,489,669
	Total	345	\$426,952	982	\$1,201,527	1,293	\$1,670,665	1,316	\$1,768,469	1,764	\$2,489,669
Tenancy Bond	HNZ	5,497	\$959,646	6,015	\$1,149,103	6,229	\$1,165,502	5,540	\$1,025,277	1,362	\$241,403
	Other	38,585	\$31,572,195	37,369	\$32,506,268	36,067	\$32,847,440	36,431	\$35,437,817	39,336	\$40,002,160
	Total	44,082	\$32,531,842	43,384	\$33,655,370	42,296	\$34,012,943	41,971	\$36,463,094	40,698	\$40,243,563
Total		44,427	\$32,958,794	44,366	\$34,856,898	43,589	\$35,683,608	43,287	\$38,231,563	42,462	\$42,733,232

Notes:

- 'HNZ' is Housing New Zealand.
- 'HSP Bond' is a grant paid under the Housing Support Products to assist payment of a Tenancy Bond.
- This is a count of grants not clients and the same client may have more than one grant.
- Other is bond payments for all other providers including payments directly to clients.
- In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
- Due to their privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.