



12 MAY 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 19 April 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many new entrants to NZ (not returning citizens) were housed by the MSD between the dates of 23/3/2020 and 19/4/2020*

Non-New Zealand nationals are currently being housed in emergency housing by several different agencies including the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Department of Corrections, the Police, and the governments from which they are a citizen of.

MBIE has a Temporary Accommodation Service that is offered to people entering New Zealand who need immediate housing during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the primary source of emergency housing for non-New Zealand nationals. Please find more information about the Temporary Accommodation Service here: [temporaryaccommodation.mbie.govt.nz/](https://temporaryaccommodation.mbie.govt.nz/)

The Ministry cannot house people in emergency housing if they do not meet the residency requirements. Therefore, the Ministry would have been unable to house foreign entrants from 23 March 2020 to 19 April 2020.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

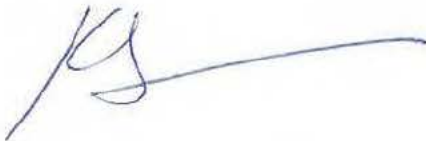
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public. 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding housing for foreign entrants, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KS', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Satterthwaite  
**General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services**