



01 JUL 2021

Dear

On 3 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information in relation to a previous response under the Act regarding the number of bonds and Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants paid to Egmont Eco Lodge between June 2016 and December 2020:

- *How much money in bonds and grants that was?*

The Ministry provides hardship assistance to help people pay a tenancy bond in a number of different ways, depending on the circumstances of the client, and whether the client is in receipt of a main benefit. The hardship assistance is also available to help pay certain housing related assistance such as a tenancy bond either through an Advance Payment of Benefit (ADV) or Recoverable Assistance Payment (RAP). Bond grants can also be provided to clients in a private rental tenancy through Housing Support Product (HSP) Bond Grant.

An ADV is a recoverable payment available to clients receiving a main benefit (e.g. Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment) who require assistance to meet a particular immediate need for an essential item, such as a tenancy bond. Clients accessing this type of assistance can receive an advance of up to six weeks of their net benefit entitlement.

The RAP, on the other hand, provides non-taxable, interest-free, recoverable financial assistance to non-beneficiaries to meet an essential immediate need for specific items or services, such as a tenancy bond. It is only available to people who meet an income and asset test and is paid up to a maximum amount of six weeks of the rate of the Supported Living Payment.

Repayment arrangements for recoverable assistance, such as ADVs and RAPs, are agreed at the outset and take the individual circumstances and financial situation of the person into account.

Housing Support Products (HSP) are also available to both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries as a set of products that aim to address barriers to accessing or retaining housing. One of the many HSPs available is a Bond Grant, which is a non-recoverable payment towards the cost of rental bonds for people considered able to afford and sustain alternative housing. The maximum Bond Grant payable is limited to whichever of the following is the lesser amount: (a) the amount of the bond payable by the person for the alternative housing; (b) the equivalent of four weeks' rent; or (c) \$2,000.

More information about hardship assistance for tenancy bonds on the Ministry's website at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/move-house/bond-and-rent-in-advance/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/move-house/bond-and-rent-in-advance/index.html).

Please note that in regard to a tenancy bond, the Ministry is only responsible for paying the bond to the client. It is up to the landlord to lodge the bond within 23 working days on receiving it. If a client is unsure if the landlord has acted lawfully and lodged the bond, it is their responsibility to contact the landlord directly or contact Tenancy Services. More information on lodging a tenancy bond can be found at the following link: [www.tenancy.govt.nz/rent-bond-and-bills/bond/preventing-problems-with-bonds](http://www.tenancy.govt.nz/rent-bond-and-bills/bond/preventing-problems-with-bonds).

As to emergency housing, the Special Needs Grant (SNG) for emergency housing (EH) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and who do not have access to other accommodation that is adequate to meet the needs of them and their families. The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation supplier and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended depending on the client's circumstances.

More information about the Special Needs Grant for emergency housing can be found on the Ministry's website, here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/emergency-housing.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/emergency-housing.html).

In response to your request, please see below **Table One**, which shows the number and amounts of hardship payments for HSP Bond Grant, Tenancy Bond and Emergency Housing paid to Egmont Eco Lodge, broken down by quarter ending September 2016 to December 2020.

**Table One: The number and amounts of hardship payments for HSP Bond Grant, Tenancy Bond and Emergency Housing paid to Egmont Eco Lodge, broken down by quarter ending September 2016 to December 2020.**

Quarter ending	HSP Bond Grant and Tenancy Bond		Emergency Housing	
	Number granted	Amount granted	Number granted	Amount granted
September 2016	S	\$400.00	0	\$0.00
March 2017	0	\$0.00	S	\$265.00
June 2017	0	\$0.00	S	\$770.00
March 2018	S	\$300.00	S	\$325.00
June 2018	S	\$531.00	0	\$0.00
December 2018	S	\$200.00	0	\$0.00
March 2019	S	\$200.00	0	\$0.00
December 2019	0	\$0.00	6	\$4,170.00
March 2020	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,740.00
June 2020	0	\$0.00	S	\$525.00
September 2020	S	\$2,000.00	S	\$375.00
December 2020	15	\$8,500.00	9	\$2,826.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$12,131.00</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$10,996.00</b>

**Notes:**

- This table only includes data for HSP Bond Grant, Tenancy Bond and Emergency Housing need types. These payments consist of a mixture of SNGs, RAPs & Advances, and include both recoverable and non-recoverable payments.
- Advances are Advances of Main Benefit.
- SNGs are Special Needs Grants.
- RAPs are Recoverable Assistance Payments.
- This is a count of grants. A client can have more than one grant in the time period.
- This is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table. A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.
- 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. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.

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
- 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, 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



pp  
Karen Hocking  
**General Manager  
Housing**