



10 MAY 2021

Tēnā koe

On 12 April 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The last 5 years of data for money given out to people as "Accommodation Supplement" categorized by each year. If possible, I would love to see the same data separate out by main cities such as Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Tauranga and Hamilton as well.*

On 16 April 2021, the Ministry contacted you to clarify your request to receive data by Territorial Local Authority Boundaries or Regional Council Boundaries. The Ministry also asked if there were any additional cities that you would like added into the request. Later that day, the Ministry received your refinement to the following:

- *I Would like to have the information of the council boundaries only. Please add Hastings and Napier City councils as well along with already requested "Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Tauranga and Hamilton".*

The Accommodation Supplement (AS) is a non-taxable benefit that provides assistance towards a client's 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 geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income and tenure type (renting, boarding or home ownership). You can find more information about the AS at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html.

Information regarding the rates of AS can be found at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-informatio/accommodation-supplement-tables/entry-thresholds-and-maximun-rates.html.

Please find **Appendix A** enclosed which contains **Table One**, showing the number of Accommodation Supplements and the total net weekly rate for selected Regional Councils as at 31 December for the years 2016 to 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 and any attached documents 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.

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.

Ngā mihi nui



Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix A

Table One: The number of Accommodation Supplements and the total net weekly rate for selected Regional Councils as at 31 December for the years 2016 to 2020.

Regional Council	December 2016		December 2017		December 2018		December 2019		December 2020	
	Accommodation Supplements	Total Net Weekly Rate	Accommodation Supplements	Total Net Weekly Rate	Accommodation Supplements	Total Net Weekly Rate	Accommodation Supplements	Total Net Weekly Rate	Accommodation Supplements	Total Net Weekly Rate
AUCKLAND REGION	92,751	\$9,196,402.79	90,627	\$9,094,756.56	95,001	\$12,553,557.20	100,929	\$13,592,163.70	125,688	\$16,910,096.83
BAY OF PLENTY REGION	24,192	\$1,614,222.50	23,994	\$1,619,507.00	24,513	\$2,192,314.10	26,238	\$2,427,226.30	30,798	\$2,892,816.50
CANTERBURY REGION	27,141	\$1,579,899.50	27,237	\$1,611,046.50	29,949	\$2,661,199.50	32,556	\$2,940,753.00	40,017	\$3,595,034.43
HAWKE'S BAY REGION	12,858	\$741,283.50	12,537	\$723,248.25	12,750	\$1,007,016.00	13,254	\$1,087,272.00	14,739	\$1,223,049.50
WAIKATO REGION	33,762	\$1,940,909.50	33,228	\$1,938,839.80	34,386	\$2,885,986.50	36,009	\$3,136,742.07	41,976	\$3,707,717.00
WELLINGTON REGION	29,562	\$1,947,812.00	28,380	\$1,876,378.75	29,217	\$2,556,433.00	30,108	\$2,705,612.00	34,326	\$3,119,202.00
Total	220,263	\$17,020,529.79	216,006	\$16,863,776.86	225,819	\$23,856,506.30	239,094	\$25,889,769.07	287,544	\$31,447,916.26

Notes:

- The number of Accommodation Supplements is the number of individuals, couples or families receiving an Accommodation Supplement for their housing purposes. It is not necessarily a count of households
- Regional Council is based on a client's address as at each period.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published count will never differ by more than two counts.