



6 December 2022

Tēnā koe

On 8 November 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Would you please provide copies of the request or requests received from the Car Ler Family Trust and the responses sent by the MSD including details of the payments made to Dannemora Motor Inn for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.*
- *Would you please provide copies of the request or requests received from Dhatt Group Limited and the responses sent by the MSD including details of the payments made to Botany Motor Inn for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and more people are experiencing a severe and immediate need. This demand is generated by a shortage of affordable housing driving up house prices and rents. People on low incomes are most affected by rising housing costs and many seek financial help through the Ministry.

The Emergency Housing Special Needs Grant (EH SNG) is available to people who cannot remain in their usual place of residence, if any, and do not have access to other accommodation which is adequate for them or their family's needs. The Ministry pays EH SNGs directly to the accommodation supplier and assistance is generally granted for up to seven nights but can be extended dependant on individual circumstances.

More information about EH SNGs is available at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html

The Ministry was unable to locate copies of requests made by Car Ler Family Trust or Dhatt Group Limited. As such, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as these documents do not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate them, cannot be found.

In order to satisfy the intent of your request, I am instead providing you with information regarding EH SNG payments to Botany Motor Inn Limited and Dannemora Motor Inn Limited.

In the attached **Appendix** you will find two tables in response to your request:

- **Table One:** EH SNGs paid to Botany Motor Inn Limited, during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022.
- **Table Two:** EH SNGs paid to Dannemora Motor Inn Limited, during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022.

You will note, as these suppliers were registered with the Ministry in 2020 we are unable to provide you with details of EH SNG payments made to them in 2019.

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'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



Karen Hocking
Group General Manager
Housing

Appendix

Table One: EH SNGs paid to Botany Motor Inn Limited, during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022.

Botany Motor Inn Limited	Calendar year		
	2020	2021	2022
Distinct Clients	174	114	81
Number of grants	618	489	294
Total amount of grants	\$1,529,987.70	\$2,045,481.47	\$1,229,560.66

Table Two: EH SNGs paid to Dannemora Motor Inn Limited, during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2022.

Dannemora Motor Inn Limited	Calendar year		
	2020	2021	2022
Distinct Clients	183	87	72
Number of grants	732	483	408
Total amount of grants	\$1,796,094.00	\$2,072,356.81	\$1,686,347.03

Table Notes

- The number of grants is not the number of individuals. A client can have more than one grant for each grant type and need.
- Amount is the amount granted. The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- The period for 2022 is from 1 January 2022 to 31 October 2022.
- 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.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.