



21 November 2022

Tēnā koe

On 3 November 2022 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The amount of monies received by Ritz Enterprises Limited trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 October 2022. Could this be in separate months if possible rather than in one figure?*
- *The amount of monies received by Ark Hotels Limited for the DuPont Executive Motels and DuPont Motel in Lower Hutt for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the period 1 August 2022 until 31 October 2022. Could this please be in separate months if possible rather than one figure?*
- *Also is it possible to know if these monies received for these Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants are subject to Goods and Services Tax (GST). For example, do the companies Ritz Enterprises and Ark Hotels pay the 15% GST in their GST returns to Inland Revenue Department. Or is this GST exclusive?*
- *The monies received by JGG Motels Limited trading as Orewa Motor Lodge for the Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the period of 1 April 2018 to 31 October 2022. Could this figure be in quarterly amounts not one total figure?*
- *The monies received by Ellerslie Palms Motel at 384 Ellerslie-Panmure Highway Auckland for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the period of 1 April 2019 to 31 October 2022.*
- *I ask for this to be in quarterly increments not one total figure please.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand continues to grow 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.

After these seven nights Work and Income arrange another appointment with the client to discuss their housing situation and if another grant is required. The Ministry works hard to support people in emergency housing to secure a long-term housing solution, either through public housing and private rental accommodation. Other options including transitional housing can also be explored as an option depending on availability and the individual's circumstances.

The Ministry recognises that motels are not a long-term solution or the solution that we want to deliver for people who are potentially in a vulnerable situation. They provide a short-term solution while more sustainable options are progressed. More information about EH SNGs is available here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html.

With regard to your requests for information, please see the following tables in **Appendix One**:

- **Table One:** The amount granted for EH SNGs paid to Ritz Enterprises trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 October 2022 broken down by month.
- **Table Two:** The amount EH SNGs paid to Ark Hotels Ltd for the DuPont Executive Motels for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 October 2022 broken down by month.
- **Table Three:** The amount granted for EH SNGs paid to Ellerslie Palms Motel (Renaissance Residencies) at 384 Ellerslie-Panmure Highway Auckland for the period of 1 April 2019 to 31 October 2022, broken down by quarter.
- **Table Four:** The amount granted for EH SNGs paid to JGG Motels Limited trading as Orewa Motor Lodge for period 1 April 2018 to 31 October 2022, broken down by quarter.

You further request:

- *Also is it possible to know if these monies received for these Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants are subject to Goods and Services Tax (GST). For example, do the companies Ritz Enterprises and Ark Hotels pay the 15% GST in their GST returns to Inland Revenue Department. Or is this GST exclusive?*

EH SNGs are subject to GST as they are payments for goods and services. You can find information about GST at Inland Revenue's website here: www.ird.govt.nz/gst. When suppliers provide quotes to the Ministry to support their applications for EH SNGs, their quotes include GST. However, the Ministry has no involvement in suppliers paying GST to Inland Revenue.

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 Hosking
**Group General Manager
Housing**

Appendix One

Table One: The amount granted for EH SNGs paid to Ritz Enterprises trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 October 2022 broken down by month.

Month ending	Amount granted
August 2022	\$35,106.00
September 2022	\$46,611.00
October 2022	\$34,536.00

Notes:

- Ritz Enterprises Limited is trading as Takapuna Lodge and Ritz Residences
- This is the amount granted
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.

Table Two: The amount EH SNGs paid to Ark Hotels Ltd for the DuPont Executive Motels for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 October 2022 broken down by month.

Month ending	Amount granted
August 2022	\$307,939.50
September 2022	\$285,555.00
October 2022	\$284,355.00

Notes:

- 'Bridgewater Hospitality Limited replaced the name 'Ark Hotels Limited' from 23 July 2022
- 'Bridgewater Hospitality Limited' is trading as DuPont Motels
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent

Table Three: The amount granted for EH SNGs paid to Ellerslie Palms Motel (Renaissance Residencies) at 384 Ellerslie-Panmure Highway Auckland for the period of 1 April 2019 to 31 October 2022, broken down by quarter.

Quarter ending	Amount granted
March 2022	\$103,166.00
June 2022	\$38,900.00
September 2022	\$32,685.00

Notes:

- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent
- There were no payments prior to or post the dates shown

Table Four: The amount granted for EH SNGs paid to JGG Motels Limited trading as Orewa Motor Lodge for period 1 April 2018 to 31 October 2022, broken down by quarter.

Quarter ending	Amount granted
September 2018	\$7,620.00
December 2018	\$28,865.04
March 2019	\$5,937.50
June 2019	\$15,740.00
September 2019	\$24,300.00
December 2019	\$10,180.00
March 2020	\$3,640.00
June 2020	\$37,290.00
September 2020	\$19,760.00
December 2020	\$300.00
March 2021	\$7,070.00
June 2021	\$0.00
September 2021	\$4,200.00
December 2021	\$28,800.00
March 2022	\$13,650.00
June 2022	\$3,150.00

Notes:

- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent
- There were no payments prior to or post the dates shown