



13 September 2022

Tēnā koe

On 1 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Could I please have the amounts of monies received by Ritz Enterprises Limited trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 July 2022. Could this be in separate months if possible rather than one figure.

Also could I please have 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 April 2022 to 31 July 2022. Could this be in separate months if possible rather than one figure.

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.

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 or 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 at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html

Some people may struggle to access suitable housing due to a lack of available supply or they simply may not be able to meet the high cost of housing which may result in them receiving EH SNG support for an extended period of time.

For people with high and complex needs, it can sometimes be challenging to identify suitable long-term housing, which can lead to longer stays in emergency housing. Work and Income work closely with these people to see what can be done to ensure that once they have a home of their own, they have the skills to sustain it, and the support they need to keep it.

Please see the attached **Appendix** containing **Table One**, outlining EH SNGs paid to Takapuna Motor Lodge/Ritz Residences and Dupont Motels during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 July 2022, broken down by month.

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 regarding Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants paid to specific motels, 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: Amount of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (EHSNGs) to the companies Ritz Enterprises Limited and Ark Hotels Limited during the period 01 April to 31 July 2022

Month	Supplier name	Amount granted
April 2022	Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences	\$59,685.00
	Dupont Motels	\$211,348.96
May 2022	Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences	\$72,797.00
	Dupont Motels	\$277,406.00
June 2022	Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences	\$45,036.00
	Dupont Motels	\$296,986.50
July 2022	Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences	\$29,522.00
	Dupont Motels	\$291,473.50

Notes:

- Ritz Enterprises Limited is trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences.
- Ark Hotels Limited is trading as Dupont Motels.
- 'Bridgewater Hospitality Limited' replaces the name for 'Ark Hotels Limited' from 23 July 2022, but has the same supplier identification reference and address.
- This is the amount granted.
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.