



21 April 2023

Tēnā koe

On 27 March 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

The following request for information is made under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982.

- *The number of people in the Bay of Plenty region that receive the Accommodation Supplement each month for the last 5 years*
 - *Can this please be broken down into Tauranga, Rotorua, and Western Bay of Plenty.*
- *Can I please have a breakdown of the types of accommodation of each supplement ie; rental, own home (mortgage), boarder, etc each month for the last five years.*
 - *Can this please be broken down into Tauranga, Rotorua, and Western Bay of Plenty.*
- *The total amount of money that has gone to Accommodation Supplement payments in Bay of Plenty each month for the last five years.*
 - *Can this please be broken down into Tauranga, Rotorua, and Western Bay of Plenty.*

Accommodation Supplement cannot be paid to people who rent a social housing property as these properties qualify for Income Related Rent (IRR) that is paid directly to their Social Housing provider. More information about IRR can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/live-in-home/live-in-public-housing/index.html

Please see attached **Appendix** containing **Table One** outlining the number of current benefit clients receiving Accommodation Supplement and weekly amount payable in Tauranga, Rotorua, and Western Bay of Plenty Territorial Local Authorities from 2018 to 2022 broken down by quarter end, territorial local authorities and accommodation type.

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 and attachments 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

Bridget Saunders

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