



30 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 2 August 2023, your request was transferred in part from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for response. You requested, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I seek to obtain details of the total sum paid to Bo Won Kang and Kwang Soon Kang, trading as Knightsbridge Motor Lodge (112 East Tamaki Road, Papatoetoe, Auckland), for the provision of Emergency Housing services. I would like this information to be broken down by year, starting from 1 January 2018 until the present date.*

Demand for housing across New Zealand is growing and many 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.

You will find attached **Appendix One**, which details the number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants and amount granted from the Ministry to Knightsbridge Motor Lodge from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2023.

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by an 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in the information.

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

PP. 

Karen Hocking
Group General Manager
Housing

Appendix One: The number of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants and amount granted to Knightsbridge Motor Lodge from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2023.

Year	Grants	Amount Granted
2018	249	\$266,248.00
2020	S	\$200.00
2021	S	\$498.00

Table notes:

- These are the EH SNGs in the period January 2018 to end of June 2023.
- Grants is not the same as clients. A clients may have more than one grant within a period.
- Amount granted may not necessarily be the same as amount spent.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry used 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.
- In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
- Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories have been suppressed or aggregated.
- Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.