



29 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 1 May 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I am requesting the amount of monies received by Ritz Enterprises Ltd trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the period of 1 February 2023 to 30 April 2023. Could this be in three separate months, rather than in one figure?*
- *I am also requesting the amount of monies received by Bridgewater Hospitality Ltd trading as the DuPont Executive Motels and DuPont Motel in Lower Hutt for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants for the period of 1 February 2023 to 30 April 2023. Could this be in three separate months, rather than one figure?*

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 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 here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/nowhere-to-stay/emergency-housing.html.

Please see the **Appendix** on page three for a data table showing the amounts of monies received by Ritz Enterprises Ltd trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences, and Bridgewater Hospitality Limited trading as Dupont Motels, for EH SNGs during the period 1 February 2023 to 30 April 2023, 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 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 about Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants, 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: Amount of Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants to the companies Ritz Enterprises Limited and Bridgewater Hospitality Limited during the period 01 Feb 2023 to 30 April 2023, broken down by month.

Month and Supplier Name		Amount granted
February 2023	Dupont Motels	\$331,477.00
	Takapuna Motor Lodge And Ritz Residences	\$43,533.00
March 2023	Dupont Motels	\$299,778.00
	Takapuna Motor Lodge And Ritz Residences	\$64,677.00
April 2023	Dupont Motels	\$251,448.58
	Takapuna Motor Lodge And Ritz Residences	\$73,921.00

Notes:

- Bridgewater Hospitality Limited is trading as Dupont Motels.
- Ritz Enterprises Limited is trading as Takapuna Motor Lodge and Ritz Residences.
- The total amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.