



17 December 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 27 November 2024, in which you requested data on the number of Emergency Housing Grants and Declines over the past two years.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which provides a table showing the number of Emergency Housing Grants and Declines during 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2024 by month and region.

The Ministry's practice and data capture in respect of emergency housing declines has improved, with all applications now having the result recorded, providing greater transparency for clients. However, this makes it difficult to compare data pre/post implementation of the new rules for entry into emergency housing.

Prior to implementation of new rules, emergency housing declines stood at 5.6% of all applications for the month ending 31 July. As at the end of October 2024, that number had risen to 13.9% of all applications, including those already living in emergency housing.

The variation in decline rates is expected. When people first present for emergency housing, staff test the availability of alternative accommodation options (e.g. staying with whanau and friends) to determine eligibility for the Emergency Housing Grant. It is important to note that over 85% of all people applying for emergency housing are granted support.

Where clients have been declined emergency housing, they may be offered other forms of assistance such as; the Accommodation Supplement, Bond Grant, Moving Costs Grant, Costs (rent) in Advance Grant or Tenancy Costs Cover Grant (provides assurances to potential landlords that the Ministry will pay the applicant's outstanding costs at the end of the tenancy, if those costs exceed the amount of bond paid).

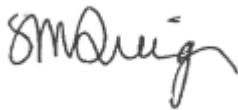
Some information in the attached table has been marked as 'S'. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in the information.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**