



14 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 13 January 2024, to Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment, requesting information about the numbers of homeless people the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) and other government departments have assisted to migrate to Rotorua. Your request was transferred to the Ministry for response on 15 January 2024 as the agency best placed to respond to your request.

I have considered your request and determined that it should be refused in full under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I am unable to provide you with this information because it would be recorded in notes on individual client files. To verify the existence of this information, Ministry staff would need to manually review a substantial volume of client files. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be impaired.

It may help if I explain that the Ministry has never operated any initiatives to relocate people living outside of the Bay of Plenty, without permanent accommodation that meets their needs, to Rotorua.

The Ministry assists people living on low incomes who do not have a suitable place to live to find stable accommodation in a range of ways. Further information about the assistance the Ministry offers to people on low incomes to obtain safe and stable housing is available here:

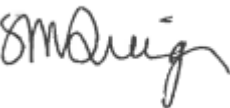
www.workandincome.govt.nz/housing/index.html.

I will publish 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.

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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services