



15 March 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2024, requesting information about Emergency Housing Special Need Grants (EH SNGs) paid to Tirzah Motel Management, motels in Kapiti, and details of any contracts for emergency housing.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

***The amount that has been paid to Tirzah Motel Management Limited for housing accommodation at the motel from 1 April 2023 until now***

***The amount of money paid to Tirzah Motel Management Limited for damages or loss of income (including the dates of payment) from 1 April 2023 until now.***

I refer you to **Appendix one, Table one** which provides the amount of EH SNGs, security deposit claims and other emergency payments granted to Tirzah Motel Management Limited between 1 January 2023 and 31 January 2024, broken down by quarter and reason for payment.

***How many motels does MSD have contracts with nationally and in the Kapiti Coast District in 2023 and 2024? And for each of these years, how much was paid to these motels in the Kapiti Coast***

Please note that the Ministry does not contract motels to provide emergency housing in New Zealand.

I refer you to **Appendix one, Table two** which provides the number of suppliers who have been granted an EH SNG and the total amount granted, nationally and in Kapiti Coast District territorial local authority, during the year 2023 and in the month of January 2024.

***For how many nights were people in the motels?***

***What funding did these people get to pay for the rooms?***

I refer you to **Appendix one, Table three** which provides emergency housing data including the total amount granted, and the number of nights granted, in Kapiti Coast District territorial local authority during the year 2023 and in the month of January 2024, broken down by supplier.

***Which five motels in the Kapiti Coast Region received the most funding in 2023 and 2024?***

I refer you to **Appendix one, Table four** which provides the top five suppliers granted Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants (by amount granted) and number of nights granted in the Kapiti Coast District territorial local authority during the year 2023 and in the month of January 2024.

***The terms of the Contract between the Ministry of Social Development and Tirzah Motel Management Limited;***

The Ministry of Social Development pays EH SNGs on behalf of clients to suppliers of commercial accommodation.

The cost of the accommodation is set by the supplier based on market rates influenced by a range of factors including demand, the size of the household requiring accommodation, and the region it is located in.

The Ministry endeavours to meet the emergency housing needs of vulnerable people in the most cost-effective manner possible. When faced with limited accommodation options, guidance to staff is that the priority is ensuring clients have somewhere to stay in the short term.

The Ministry does not contract motels to provide emergency housing in New Zealand.

EH SNGs are intended as a one-off grant. They are not able to be paid in advance of the need, or beyond what an individual is entitled to at the time of application.

***Any agreement for the Ministry to pay for repairs to the land and buildings at any time including at the end of the contract term.***

A security deposit helps safeguard the provider against loss or damage caused by the client or anyone staying with the client. Before a security deposit payment can be made to the supplier on the client's behalf, the supplier must first discuss these costs with the client. If the client does not agree, the Ministry will not pay the security deposit on the client's behalf. Security deposits need to be agreed to by the clients and the supplier of the accommodation, and approved by the Ministry, before a client can stay with a supplier.

The security deposit is generally the equivalent of seven nights' accommodation for emergency housing suppliers. The security deposit is recoverable, and clients are required to pay this back to the Ministry at a rate that does not cause them hardship.

The security deposit represents an amount able to be claimed by the emergency housing provider to reimburse loss or damage. The security deposit can only be used to cover costs such as:

- any breakages or damages caused by the client or anyone staying with them (such as any breakages or damage to the property whether intentional or accidental)
- losses relating to failure of the client not meeting their obligations to the supplier/provider under their agreement for stay
- any loss of accommodation costs that the client fails to pay.


The security deposit does not cover the cost of refurbishing units when tenants move out or the property ceases provision of emergency accommodation or general wear and tear.

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.

Yours sincerely

*p.p.* 

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