



10 June 2021

DOIA20/21050573

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)

Thank you for your email dated 13 May 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*To provide some background, it relates to the changes to emergency housing provision in Rotorua announced today (Thursday 13 May). I note the accompanying press release said: "HUD and Kāinga Ora are assessing which of the current motels being used for emergency housing in Rotorua have facilities suitable for emergency housing for whanau and tamariki. HUD is talking with suitable motels this week about contracts for emergency housing." With the above in mind, I wanted to ask, under the OIA:*

*What criteria is being applied to assess a motel as being suitable/unsuitable for whanau and tamariki?*

*How many motels are being assessed in total?*

*How many motels currently being used for emergency housing for whanau and tamariki have been assessed as unsuitable?*

*How many motels deemed suitable is HUD going to talk to about emergency housing contracts?*

*Can I have any documentation/reports that exist on the assessments for each motel?*

As you are aware, the Government recently announced it will directly contract motels in Rotorua to deliver emergency housing, in order to better support families and children living in motels while more appropriate medium to long-term housing is built. Work has begun to assess motels for contracting to provide emergency housing with wraparound services.

I will address each of your requests in order:

*What criteria is being applied to assess a motel as being suitable/unsuitable for whanau and tamariki?*

The Rotorua Taskforce, which includes iwi, local and central government agencies, has identified a range of motels that may be suitable to support whanau. A number of motels are being contacted by Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials to determine their interest. Once the preferred motels have been identified, onsite visits are conducted by appropriate officials from HUD and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), as well as Social Services providers.



A number of factors will be assessed when determining whether or not a motel is suitable for contracting. These include:

- General habitability (i.e. cleanliness, heating, ventilation)
- Room configuration (i.e. room size)
- Suitable cooking facilities (i.e. fridge size)
- Fire safety requirements (i.e. fire exit plans, smoke alarms)
- Security (i.e. facility access points, presence of on-site security cameras)
- Health and safety (i.e. secure pool access, appropriate hazard identification)

Where motels do not meet all of the standards, they may be selected if they have indicated that they will bring the property to the required standard. Where this is the case, the Support Services Providers will assist with the management of this.

*How many motels are being assessed in total?*

41 motels have been identified as suitable for assessment by the Taskforce.

*How many motels currently being used for emergency housing for whanau and tamariki have been assessed as unsuitable?*

As HUD is still undertaking the assessment process to identify which motels are suitable for contracting, I am withholding this information under the following sections of the Act:

<b>Section of Act</b>	<b>Reason to withhold</b>
9(2)(f)(iv)	To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
9(2)(j)	To enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

*How many motels deemed suitable is HUD going to talk to about emergency housing contracts?*

As I mentioned earlier, 41 motels have been identified as suitable for assessment to provide contracted emergency housing. MSD, HUD and Social Services Providers have been meeting with the moteliere who have expressed an interest in providing emergency accommodation for whanau in Rotorua and, to date, we have visited 19 motels.

*Can I have any documentation/reports that exist on the assessments for each motel?*

As HUD, MSD and Social Services Providers are continuing to meet with moteliere as part of the assessment process, I am withholding all documentation and reports produced as part of the assessment under the following sections of the Act:

<b>Section of Act</b>	<b>Reason to withhold</b>
9(2)(f)(iv)	To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
9(2)(j)	To enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

As part of our ongoing commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the public. As such, this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on our website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Shaw', written in a cursive style.

Anne Shaw  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Housing Supply, Response and Partnerships**