



HUD2022-001484

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 21 December 2022 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 11 January 2023, the following parts of your request were transferred to the Ministry of Social Development for response, as social sector accreditation falls within their responsibilities.

- I understand a Social Services Accreditation assessment for Visions of a Helping Hand was carried out by Te Kāhui Kāhu in June 29<sup>th</sup> 2020. I would like to see documents relating to that assessment as well as the final report.*
- I understand Social Services Accreditation assessments are supposed to be carried out every two years, meaning one would have been done mid-2022. I would like to see documents relating to the 2022 assessment as well as the final report.*

I will respond to the remaining parts of your request as follows:

*Is Visions of a Helping Hand a Community Housing Provider? What standards must they comply with and have they been assessed by the Community Housing Regulatory Authority? If so, I would like to see that assessment.*

I can confirm that Visions of a Helping Hand is not a registered Community Housing Provider. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, that the information requested is not held by the department and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

*According to documents released to me under the OIA, a “formative evaluation of the outcomes of individuals and whanau living in contracted emergency housing motels in Rotorua” has been carried out by government. I would like to see the findings of this evaluation.*

As you are aware, Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) is currently undertaking an evaluation of the contracted emergency housing pilot programme in Rotorua. I expect this report to be finalised in February 2023 and the Ministry will be making it available on our website. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, that the information requested will soon be publicly available.

*In 2022 HUD engaged a KC (formerly QC) to getting a QC to “check whether there is anything more we should be doing and to review all the actions that have been taken” regarding concerns around Visions of a Helping Hand. I would like to see the KC’s full final report. If the full report cannot be made available, I would like to see the summary of findings. If a request for this report has been made prior to my request, I would like to receive the information as soon as it is available.*

I am withholding the advice provided by Simon Mount, King's Counsel, in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act, to maintain legal professional privilege.

*According to documents released to me under the OIA, in March 2020 the Rotorua Lakes Council raised an allegation about Visions of a Helping Hand with HUD, which in turn raised it with Visions. I would like to know what the allegation was, I'd like to see any documents and/or correspondence relating to that allegation, and I'd like to know what HUD did to investigate/resolve the allegation.*

I am refusing this part of your request under section 6(c) of the Act, as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

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 my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'WB', followed by a horizontal line.

William Barris  
**General Manager Partnerships and Performance**