



25 September 2023

HUD2023-003034

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2023 requesting the following information, from the Ministry of Social Development, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *"...How many children (under 18) are currently in government-funded transitional and emergency housing motels/hotels in New Zealand, clustered into general regions (e.g. Tauranga/WBOP, Rotorua, Hastings/Napier etc)? What are the contract arrangements for this accommodation (e.g. are the motels/hotels managed by providers, or does a government body manage the motels/hotels)?"*
2. *How many were housed in motels/hotels in August 2020, with the same breakdown?*
3. *What is the average and the median times for children to be housed in motels/hotels?*
4. *What is the longest a child has lived in a motel/hotel?*
5. *How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than a year?*
6. *How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than two years?*
7. *How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than three years?*
8. *How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than four years?*
9. *How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than five years?"*

As noted to you in the Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) email of 29 August this request has been partially transferred to Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry), as the matters related to Transitional Housing fall under our responsibility. Other matters in your request, such as emergency housing provision, remain with MSD to answer.

In response to the questions above the Ministry provides the following answers.

1. *"How many children (under 18) are currently in government-funded transitional and emergency housing motels/hotels in New Zealand, clustered into general regions (e.g. Tauranga/WBOP, Rotorua, Hastings/Napier etc)?"*
2. *"How many were housed in motels/hotels in August 2020, with the same breakdown?"*

For questions 1 (first query) and 2 set out above, the Ministry notes the information provided on Transitional Housing in this letter is based on programme provider reporting, which can be incomplete and may be revised in future. The quality and completeness of programme provider reporting can vary from month to month, and to mitigate this issue, we do not report raw counts but proportions only.

For reasons stated above, Transitional Housing data takes longer to process, and 2023 data is not yet available for publication. We provided June 2022 and June 2020 for the purpose of your request.

The regional breakdown cannot be provided as some of the underlying counts of persons become too small, which may then lead to the identification of natural persons. This information is therefore withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to ensure the privacy of natural persons.

For Transitional Housing,

On 30 June 2022:

- The proportion of reported households with at least one child in motels and hotels is 14%;
- The proportion of reported households with at least one child in motels and hotels and have been so for a year or longer is 3%; and
- The proportion of reported households with at least one child in motels or hotels for less than a year is 11%.

On 30 June 2020:

- The proportion of reported households with at least one child in motels and hotels is 23%;
- The proportion of reported households with at least one child in motels and hotels and have been so for a year or longer is 2%; and
- The proportion of reported households with at least one child in motels or hotels for less than a year is 21%.

1. *“...What are the contract arrangements for this accommodation (e.g. are the motels/hotels managed by providers, or does a government body manage the motels/hotels)?”*

For the second query of question 1 (above), the Ministry contracts motel owners and support service providers separately. The motels are managed by the motel owner and/or manager, not the Ministry.

Motel owners are contracted to provide safe and secure accommodation for those in Transitional Housing (TH) and Contracted Emergency Housing (CEH) in accordance with all applicable laws. This includes any regulations and local government requirements related to the building regulatory system. The contract for motels providing TH places has been recently strengthened by the introduction of the TH Code of Practice.

Support service providers are contracted to provide a range of support for clients in TH and CEH. These supports depend on the needs of the client and may include access to a social worker, referral to health services such as mental health and addiction support, and support to find long-term accommodation.

Neither TH nor CEH is intended as a long-term accommodation solution – over time, clients will be supported into more permanent accommodation that meets their needs.

CEH is where some Rotorua motels are contracted for the exclusive use of whānau (parents with children), individuals with disabilities, rangatahi and kaumātua. The triage of clients into CEH motels is facilitated through Te Pokapū, the Rotorua Housing Hub.

CEH motels have 24/7 security services and wrap-around pastoral support. Like TH, this support includes helping clients find sustainable housing solutions - the solution depends on the client's

needs and the supply available. Other support services also depend on the client's needs but may include referrals to mental health and addiction services, primary healthcare, social worker services, assistance with budgeting, numeracy and literacy training, and after-school and holiday programmes for children.

Thirteen motels in Rotorua were originally contracted by HUD. As demand for CEH has lessened, the number of CEH motels has recently reduced from 13 to 11.

HUD publishes monthly temporary housing dashboards on Rotorua. These can be found at the bottom of this page: <https://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/rotorua-housing-accord/>

3. *“What is the average and the median times for children to be housed in motels/hotels?”*

For the answer to question 3, please see Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Mean and Median Days in Service for reported households with at least one child in a Transitional Housing motel or hotel as of 30 June 2022**

	Households with at least one child, living in a motel or hotel at the end of June 2022 (days)	Households with at least one child, who exited a motel or hotel during the month of June 2022 (days)
<b>Mean</b>	202	272
<b>Median</b>	134	124

4. *“What is the longest a child has lived in a motel/hotel?”*

For question 4, the Ministry cannot provide a figure for the maximum length of service as this information can potentially lead to the identification of households and individuals. This information is therefore withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to ensure the privacy of natural persons.

5. *“How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than a year?”*

Please see the second bullet point answers to the first query of question 1.

6. *How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than two years?*

On 30 June 2022, less than 1% of reported households with at least one child had been in a motel or hotel for two years.

7. *“How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than three years?”*

8. *“How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than four years?”*

9. *“How many have lived in a motel/hotel for more than five years?”*

To answer questions 7, 8, and 9, there were no reported households – as of 30 June 2022 - with at least one child who had been in a motel or hotel for three years or longer.

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)

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 be 'Will Barris', with a large, stylized 'W' and 'B'.

Will Barris  
**General Manager, Partnerships and Performance**