



HUD2023-003106

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Justice dated 20 August 2023 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 15 September 2023, the following part of your request was transferred to Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) for response:

How does a suppression order benefit the public?

The reforms made to the Residential Tenancies Act in 2020 allows the Tenancy Tribunal to anonymise identifying details in situations where a party has been wholly or substantially successful in taking a case. This was done to remove the disincentive for tenants who might be reluctant to enforce their rights at the Tribunal in case future landlords search Tribunal decisions to vet potential tenants. It still ensures that information in the public interest continues to be available.

The reform also clarified that the Tribunal may suppress evidence, or names and identifying details of any witness or party, if that is in the interests of the parties and the public interest. For example, it may be appropriate to suppress evidence relating to mental health issues or domestic violence, or commercially sensitive information. For Tenancy Tribunal hearings involving family violence withdrawal notices, name suppression for all parties is automatic and hearings occur in private.

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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

Claire Leadbetter
Manager Tenancy and Tenures