

HUD2024-003845

| s 9(2)(a) | | |
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Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2024, transferred to Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), from the Ministry of Social Development, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I would please like a list of all the current contracts and pending tenders, including contracts currently being reviewed, for housing/accommodation support, in the Ruapehu & Taumarunui Areas. Can this information please include: - Name of Contract - Purpose & scope (cover area, target clients, and FTEs funded, if any) of contract - Agency currently holding the contract and when this is next up for tender - Government contact details for the contract"

Much of the detail of HUD's work in the region is detailed on the Quarterly Regional Factsheet (December 2023's is the most recent released). All of our contracted providers will be listed there with additional details of the programmes and work underway across the region. For the Ruapehu district, it indicates that, as of December 2023 there are 77 Public Housing places, and a small number of Transitional Housing places.

Public homes are properties owned or leased by Kāinga Ora and registered Community Housing Providers that can be tenanted by people who are eligible for public housing. The 77 places in the area are all Kainga Ora properties, none of which are operated by a Community Housing Provider. As such, we are unable to speak to the number of FTEs which are dedicated to management of these places.

Transitional Housing (TH) provides temporary accommodation for individuals and whānau who don't have anywhere to live and are urgently in need of a place to stay and offers tailored support to help households move into longer-term housing. With regard to TH in the area, there are a small number of places in Ruapehu but due to there being so few, we are unable to disclose further details about them. Therefore we are refusing this part of your request under Section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In considering your request we must balance between our duty to disclose information requested under the Act and our obligations to respect the privacy of the occupants of those places. Consequently, we cannot divulge either the precise number or the name of the provider. However, I can say that the factsheet does list all providers delivering the service throughout the region. Unfortunately, I am also unable to give any details as to the number of FTE employees involved in delivering these services as that is not information which HUD requires its providers to report.

Additionally, HUD contracts Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust to deliver Sustaining Tenancies support to 140 households across Taumarunui and Te Kuiti over a five year period through to June

2025. Sustaining Tenancies works to prevent homelessness by funding community-based services to help individuals and whānau who are at risk of losing their tenancy. As with our other programmes, HUD does not require providers to report the number of FTEs involved in delivering these services and so here too I am unable to give you specific numbers relating to that portion of your request. This part of your request is refused under section 18 (e) of the Act as the specific information about FTEs as set out in your request does not exist.

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.

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

Will Barris

General Manager, Partnerships and Performance Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development