



Ms Hartley
fyi-request-16174-a0a7871c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ms Hartley

On 24 July 2021 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. How many household weeks of emergency accommodation have been purchased by MSD during 2020 and 2021. (To clarify, if 1 family were housed for 6 weeks, and 2 families were housed for 1 week each and a couple were in a hotel room for 10 weeks, the total household weeks would equal 18 household weeks)*
- 2. I would like to know the number of household weeks by calendar year along with the total amount spend by calendar year.*
- 3. What research has gone into other ways to solve the current housing crisis using this money, including what options were considered and whether these other options were approved as better options or declined and the reason for being declined.*
- 4. Is Emergency Housing costing in the vicinity of \$4000 per week? And families can be in EH for upwards of 6 months and whether the claims that some households have been in EH for as long as 2 years are factual?*
- 5. Request for all information that is available for release relating to any and all investigations and considerations the government has given to other ways to use the money that is currently being spent on emergency accommodation.*
- 6. I would also like to request all details of what efforts MSD and or other gov departments tasked with EH to obtain reports, recommendations or studies?*
- 7. I request details of any other efforts that have been initiated by MSD/ the government to ensure they were aware of all the alternative options to manage the need for emergency accommodation in both the short and long term, that the funds could have been spent on.*
- 8. I would like to know in as much specific detail as possible, what efforts were made to ensure the money has been spent in the best way possible. And if no effort has been made to source this information I would like to understand why?*
- 9. Has the government considered the purchase of large pieces of currently rural/lifestyle block zoned land on the outskirts of main centers a a cost of approximately \$130-\$180k for each house and land, plus relocation costs, and any other costs to set up services to each individual block of land?*
- 10. I would like to request evidence that these sort of legislation changes have been considered and where objections were likely, the objections were considered within the same methodology as used during the COVID crisis.*
- 11. Has the government also considered doing a similar project in areas where there has been horticultural or farming employers crying out for staff, so that people in housing need who would thrive in a rural environment can relocate*

to regions and smaller towns which have demonstrated a significant need for staff?

12. I would like to know how much money is being spent on emergency accommodation and an explanation as to why this amount of money is being spent on temporary accommodation when it seems to me it would be very easy and quick for a motivated person in government to source some land and some of the already built housing, that is being offered for purchase on numerous websites such as trademe, and put this money to significantly better use with a far better outcome in the short term as well as contributing to the long term resolution.

This letter is to advise you that the Ministry has received your request, however, requires more time to respond to this request. In accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Official Information Act, the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 30 September 2021.

The reason for the extension is that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz

I will respond to you sooner if I am able to.

Ngā mihi nui



Janet Green
**Manager,
Official and Parliamentary Information,
Ministerial and Executive Services**