

4 November 2021

s9(2)(a)



Thank you for your request of 16 September 2021, which was refined on 17 September 2021, under the Official Information Act (the Act) to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, asking for:

“All information held by Kainga Ora generated or received in the last 12 months relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua.

In particular, we are seeking the following items of information coming within the parameters of our refined request above:

- *all communications between Kainga Ora and the Rotorua Lakes Council and/or Te Arawa Group Holdings Limited relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*
- *any analysis, either generated by or provided to Kainga Ora, on the effect on tourism and business relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*
- *any analysis, either generated by or provided to Kainga Ora, on the assessment of environmental impact of the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*
- *communications between Kainga Ora and the Council (including third parties), and any other entity specifying any financial arrangements, including, but not limited to, rates rebates and reduced development contributions relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*
- *all advice, both from within Kainga Ora or external advice from third parties, relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua; and*
- *lease agreements that Kainga Ora enters into with its emergency housing tenants.”*

The following is the response of Kāinga Ora to each of your questions:

- *all communications between Kainga Ora and the Rotorua Lakes Council and/or Te Arawa Group Holdings Limited relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*

Kāinga Ora was granted a resource consent in July 2021 by Rotorua Lakes Council to permit the units at 265 Fenton Street to be used for transitional housing for people and families in need in need of short term accommodation.

The consent has been released by the Rotorua Lakes Council under the Local Government Official Information Act 1987, and is publicly available at www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/officialinformation/official-information-requests?item=id:2fidw4g4l1cxbyd924ba.

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

- *any analysis, either generated by or provided to Kainga Ora, on the effect on tourism and business relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*
- *any analysis, either generated by or provided to Kainga Ora, on the assessment of environmental impact of the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*
- *communications between Kainga Ora and the Council (including third parties), and any other entity specifying any financial arrangements, including, but not limited to, rates rebates and reduced development contributions relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua;*
- *all advice, both from within Kainga Ora or external advice from third parties, relating to the conversion of motels/hotels in the central Rotorua district to provide emergency and transitional housing in Rotorua.*

I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the document(s) alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

- *lease agreements that Kainga Ora enters into with its emergency housing tenants.”*

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Kāinga Ora does not provide emergency accommodation. Kāinga Ora provides transitional and longer-term government-subsidised housing.

Kāinga Ora continues to explore a range of opportunities to increase housing for whānau in Rotorua. Kāinga Ora is moving forward with plans for 37 public homes at the Ranolf Street/Malfroy Road site in Rotorua and redevelopment is underway at a number of sites with older housing. Work is also progressing to upgrade 265 Fenton Street to make it suitable for transitional housing for over 80 people, while permanent homes are sought.

Kāinga Ora has delivered 63 new warm and dry state homes in Rotorua in the past three years, and continues to investigate other development and partnership housing opportunities.

You have the right under section 28(3) to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman about the decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at either www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations