

Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Housing

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

Associate Minister of Finance



Mr R S Grant

fyi-request-14235-977b8aed@requests.fyi.org.nz

26 JAN 2021

Dear Mr Grant,

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 2 December 2020 relating to post-COVID-19 rates of rough sleeping Auckland. The specific wording of your request was as follows;

On or around 26 April 2020 you stated that:

"Some of the agencies we've been working with, who of course know most of the rough-sleepers in the area, have been trying for years to get some of these people into accommodation. It's during COVID we've managed to achieve that, so we certainly don't want to lose those gains that we've made in really tackling homelessness in New Zealand."

Please can you provide any information you have assessing the extent to which those gains have, in fact, subsequently been lost in respect of Auckland?

The OIA enables people to request official information from Ministers and agencies, however, the OIA only applies to information that is already held. There is no obligation to create information in order to respond to a request.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the OIA as my office, as of the date of your request, has not yet received any advice on the extent to which the gains made in tackling homelessness in Auckland due to the Government's COVID-19 response, have subsequently been lost.

Although I have yet to receive formal advice or information on this particular subject matter, I am aware that Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban Development are working on collecting and collating information that will provide greater detail on the outcomes of the Government's COVID-19 response in respect of homelessness. This will of course include detail specifically about the outcome of the response in Auckland as per your request. I have been given an indicative timeline for the first quarter of next year, and will be able to consider this material for publication when I have received it or the department has finalised it.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Woods'.

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Housing