



3 June 2026

Meghanniva

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DOIA-REQ-0032675

Tēnā koe Meghanniva

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following:

*Please provide the following data for the 2018/19, 2022/23, 2023/24, and 2024/25 financial years:*

- 1. The total amount of government funding managed by MBIE or INZ and provided to Asylum Seekers Support Trust (ASST) in each of the above financial years.*
- 2. The number of unique individuals who were placed into accommodation provided by ASST itself.*

*Here, "accommodation provided by ASST itself" means accommodation owned, leased, operated, managed, or directly provided by ASST.*

- 3. The number of unique individuals who were assisted by ASST to find external accommodation.*

*Here, external accommodation means housing that is not owned, leased, operated, managed, or directly provided by ASST.*

*Please provide item 3 separately according to the following external accommodation categories:*

- 3.1 studio*
- 3.2 flat accommodation*
- 3.3 other*

- 4. The funding actually spent on accommodation-related services to assist asylum seekers in each of the above financial years:*

- 4.1 accommodation-related total expenditure*
- 4.2 the amount spent on accommodation provided by ASST itself*
- 4.3 the amount spent on assistance in finding external accommodation*

*Please do not count contacts, appointments, advocacy services, activities, or service interactions as individuals in the above people statistics. The people statistics requested above are for the number of unique individuals.*

*If exact data is not held, please provide the closest available data, estimated data, or partial data, and explain the relevant data scope and calculation basis.*



## Our Response

Asylum Seekers Support Trust (ASST) publishes information relating to financial and annual reports on their website - [Asylum Seekers Support Trust – Refugee Resettlement Support](#).

### Question 1

MBIE provides funding to ASST through a funding agreement, the first funding agreement was in effect from September 2023 to March 2025. Therefore, your request for information on funding provided to ASST for financial years 2018/2019 and 2022/2023 is being refused under s18(g) of the Act as this information does not exist.

Please see the below breakdown of funding instalments from MBIE to ASST for financial years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

Financial Year	Instalment Month	Amount (NZD)
2023/2024	September	\$250,000
	March	\$250,000
2024/2025	September	\$250,000
	March	\$250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,000,000</b>

### Questions 2-3

We are refusing questions 2-3 under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by MBIE, and we have no grounds for believing the information is held by another department of more closely connected to the functions of another department.

To obtain this information you would need to contact the Asylum Seekers Support Trust directly.

### Question 4

MBIE funding contributions relating to accommodation is through emergency accommodation services delivered by ASST. Funding contributions are to be used towards the hostel's basic operational costs to ensure the hostel can be maintained – including power, internet, building maintenance, pest control, furniture provision, linen, and clothing and hygiene items for asylum seekers.

Information is not held by MBIE on further breakdown of hostel related costs, for example, the following funding contribution breakdown excludes hostel staffing costs and other hostel related overheads not listed above. Please note, ASST financial reporting is not held by financial year. The following information has instead been broken down by six monthly expenditure reporting received by MBIE from ASST.

Period - Hostel Costs	Amount (NZD)
1 September 2023 to 1 March 2024	\$28,286
1 March 2024 to 31 August 2024	\$17,159
01 September 2024 to 28 February 2025	\$19,388
1 March to 30 September 2025	\$25,213
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,046.00</b>

We are refusing questions 4.2 and 4.3 under section 18(g) of the Act, for the reasons mentioned above. To obtain this information you would need to contact the Asylum Seekers Support Trust directly. 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact [inzoias@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:inzoias@mbie.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

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

Fiona Whiteridge  
**General Manager Refugee and Migrant Services**  
Immigration New Zealand  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment