

LGOIMA Reference: 2021/770

2 September 2021



### Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 24/08/2021. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

#### Part One:

1. **Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to the Ministry Of Justice for collection?**

Yes.

2. **Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to private debt collection companies for collection?**

No.

3. **If yes to question number 2 above, what legislation formally allows you to do this?**

Not applicable.

4. **Does your council either yourself or using a third party update individuals personal credit file history with regards to unpaid infringements?**

Council uses the standard Ministry of Justice fines process.

5. **If yes to number 4, do you use the standard Ministry Of Justice “fines” process which is automatically removed from an individual’s personal credit file upon payment of the fines, or do you use a private third party credit reporting agency or debt collection company, which remains on a individuals personal credit file for 5 years from the date of listing?**

Council uses the standard Ministry of Justice fines process.

6. With regards to number 5 above, do you authorise credit reporting agencies and or debt collection companies to remove credit defaults from individuals personal credit files following the payment of infringement notices or do you persist they remain for the maximum time allowable by privacy law?

No.

7. Do you allow individuals to come to a payment arrangement prior to referring unpaid infringement notices to any of the above sources, or similar to some government agencies (e.g. NZ Police) do you refuse to allow direct payment arrangements?

No, infringement payments received by Council must be paid in full.

**Part Two:**

1. In the twelve month ending 31/07/2021, how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to the Ministry of Justice for formal collection?

There were 1,707 unpaid infringements referred to the Ministry of Justice for collection in the twelve months ending 31 July 2021.

2. In the twelve months ending 31/07/2021, how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to private debt collection (any other company or organisation that is not the Ministry Of Justice) for collection?

(0) Zero.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Officer on 06 366 0999 or email - [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz)

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Slade  
Executive Sponsor - LGOIMA