

Reference Number: 2023/1004

12 September 2023

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 20 August 2023. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

“The average time for a consent to be processed and approved at your council”

The time period and type of consents was not specified in the request nor was what was meant by “average time”. The tables on the attached spreadsheet show the processing time in average working days for building consents and resource consents for the 2022/23 financial year and for the 2023/24 year to 25/08/2023.

Working days are as defined under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Building Act 2004.

“How many consents have been sitting with the council for more than 6 months since it was first submitted, with a decision yet to be made”

Thirty one (31) of the 78 resource consents in progress have been in progress for more than 6 calendar months. Two of those consents are notified resource consents, which have statutory timeframes between 60 and 130 working days.

Five (5) of the 65 building consents currently in progress have been in progress for more than 6 calendar months.

“What is the main cause of delays to processing consents”

Further information has been requested and is yet to be provided.

“How many staff work to process consents at the council”

- Planning – 5.0 FTE – including planning team leader and planning technician and not including vacant roles
- Building – 5.3 FTE – including building team leader and not including vacant roles

We also use contractors to process building and resource consents.

“How much was spent in the last FY on processing consents (total cost including staffing)”

This part of the request is refused under section 17(d) of the LGOIMA, that the information requested is or will soon be publically available. Please refer to the [annual report](#) that will be publically available in the near term.

“What work, if any, is underway to streamline the consenting process at your council”

Continuous improvements relating to streamlining processes and looking for efficiency gains is ongoing. There are a number of planned improvements that range from updating information provided on our website, updating our pre-lodgment checklists to ensure we get the correct information when the application is received, general process reviews through to investigating electronic consents portals and processing tools. Some of these projects are in the scoping stages and others are in progress.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

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.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Advisor on LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz

Ngā mihi



Steve McTaylor-Biggs
Executive Sponsor

Processing times (working days) 2022/23													
Consent Type	Yearly Average	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Building	18.00	17.08	17.65	19.83	21.29	21.98	19.58	17.18	19.02	19.15	13.32	14.81	14.09
Land Use	24.5	29.9	23.6	36.7	26.7	46.0	19.7	14.8	17.0	19.6	20.6	23.1	20.7
Subdivision Consents	27.6	33.5	38.0	32.3	32.9	23.1	18.5	22.3	17.8	17.8	20.3	20.3	24.7
Other	18.6	15.0	N/A	17.0	N/A	8.0	16.0	N/A	28.8	14.5	N/A	N/A	N/A

Processing times (working days) 2023/24 to 25/08/2023													
Consent Type	YTD Average	July	August										
Building	13.00	13.20	12.71										
Land Use	33.4	29.6	39.7										
Subdivision Consents	31.8	34.7	28										
Other	30.5	11	50										

NOTE: processing days are working days as defined under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Building Act 2004