

29 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 09/09/2020. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

In the past five years, how many times has the Council used its rights under the Health Act to inspect rental housing properties?

In the past five years, Council's Environmental Health Officers have responded to eight (8) reported complaints relating to rental housing conditions.

In the past five years, how many times has the Council exercised its powers to issue a repair or closure notice to landlords whose properties do not meet the Housing Improvement Regulations?

Council has issued no (0) repair notices or closure notices to owners in the past five years.

How do you identify which rental housing properties to inspect under the Health Act?

Council's Environmental Health Officers identify properties to inspect based on reported complaints made to Council.

What is the process for tenants to request the Council inspect their rental housing property under the Health Act and provide a written report on its condition?

Tenants that are concerned the living condition of their rental property is unhealthy can contact Council to report a complaint. Council's Environmental Health Officers will contact them to discuss their concerns and if necessary arrange an inspection.

Tenants that contact Council about their living conditions are encouraged to speak to the landlord in the first instance, if they haven't already.

What information is available on your website or in your publications on rental housing inspections provided by the Council?

Council currently has no information on our website in this regard, however we have reviewed this and will provide information to our community.

What is your process for engaging with the Tenancy Tribunal to provide reports on the rental housing inspections you conduct?

Council's Environmental Health Officer will provide a written report following the inspection of a property. This response can then be used by either a landlord or a tenant during the Tenancy Tribunal process.

If you have any queries regarding this information please contact David McCorkindale, Group Manager Customer & Strategy on 06 366 0999 or email - davidbm@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