

Reference Number: 2023/973

12 June 2023

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 30 May 2023. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

“Total value of rates arrears and late payment penalties”

Year	Total Value - excluding GST (\$000)
1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017	\$3,670
1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018	\$2,965
1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019	\$3,856
1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020	\$3,168
1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021	\$2,904
1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022	\$2,529

“Is the Horowhenua District Council predicting the total value of rates arrears and late payment penalties for the 2022/2023 rating year to increase or decrease on the previous rating year?”

Council does not make prediction to the total value of rates arrears and late payment penalties each year. Council has debt management and collection process in place in accordance with the Local Government (Rating) Act. Council also provide for doubtful debts provision each year. This is reported in Council’s Annual Report.

“Is the Horowhenua District Council predicting the total value of rates arrears and late payment penalties for the 2023/2024 rating year to increase or decrease on the previous rating year?”

Council does not make prediction to the total value of rates arrears and late payment penalties each year. Council has debt management and collection process in place in accordance with the Local Government (Rating) Act. Council also provide for doubtful debts provision each year. This is reported in Council’s Annual Report.

“How many rating units have arrears of rates and/or late payment penalties which have been outstanding for more than 12 months?”

94 rating units have an outstanding balance as at 1 July 2022.

“What are the Horowhenua District Council’s policies and processes for the collection of any outstanding rates and late payment penalties?”

Horowhenua District Council follows the processes outlined in Sections 62 to 84 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Council uses an external agent (Debt Management Central) to manage our collection process as per Section 53 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

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 Officer on LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz

Ngā mihi



Steve McTaylor-Biggs
Executive Sponsor