


Reference Number: 2025/1278

22 August 2025



Tēnā koe | Dear 

Thank you for your email dated 8 August 2025 requesting for information relating to to LGOIMA data under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Please see outlined below a response to each part of your request.

Can we please have the comparative data updated for the current period (2024-2025) assuming the data is taken from July 1st to June 30th of this year. The attached response will be used for the purposes of comparison.

For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, a total of 142 LGOIMA requests were received.

Can we also have initial data showing the number of requests for the beginning of this year (2025-2026), presuming that is the data cycle), suspecting that it might show a spike?

As of today, 11 August 2025, we have received 22 LGOIMA requests for the current reporting period (1 July 2025 – 11 August 2025).

Can we have provided an estimate of how many HDC staffing hours are set aside to address LGOIMA requests each year, or staffing units assigned to see to them, or have provided any information that would best illustrate the time taken to respond to LGOIMA requests, either in totality or by average.

We have one full-time LGOIMA Advisor whose responsibilities include assisting with collation of information, undertaking redactions, drafting response letters, and providing guidance and advice to staff regarding LGOIMA processes. While we do not routinely track the total number of hours spent annually on LGOIMA responses across the organisation, the dedicated Advisor is supported by various officers across business units who contribute information as needed on a case-by-case basis. Each LGOIMA request also undergoes a review process, which involves additional officer time. As such, the total time involved in responding to LGOIMA requests can vary significantly depending on the nature and complexity of each request.

The responses are published publicly, with the details of the requestees redacted. Is there an obligation for local authorities to publish responses to all requests?

While there is no legal obligation for local authorities to publish responses to all LGOIMA requests, doing so is consistent with the purpose of the Act, which is to progressively increase the availability of official information. In line with the principle of availability, we have adopted a 'publish unless there is good reason not to' approach. This means that, where appropriate, responses are proactively published with requestor details redacted.

Are all request responses published? If not, what are the reasons for selective publishing or for not publishing?

No, not all responses are published. Responses are not published where they relate primarily to the personal interest or circumstances of the requester, or where publishing could inadvertently reveal aspects of their identity or private information. We also consider other factors such as the sensitivity of the subject matter and whether the information has broader public interest. Our approach aligns with the principle of availability under the Act, balanced with the obligation to protect personal privacy.

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 freephone 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 would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Jacinta Straker (Group Manager Organisation Performance) on jacintas@horowhenua.govt.nz, or LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi | Best regards



Monique Davidson
Chief Executive