

Reference Number: 2023/1023

17 November 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2023, requesting under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), information relating to fires and damages from vaping devices. Specifically, you requested:

“I’d be grateful if you can supply any data you would hold on fires or damages caused by batteries in vaping devices in your local area over the past 5 years, broken down annually.:

Horowhenua District Council has one contractor, namely Northland Waste (Low Cost Bins). Low Cost Bins have had three fires caused by what they believe to be Lithium Ion batteries in the past 5 years. One was attributed to an electronic golf cart, and the other 2 incidents have never been specifically identified to a particular product that uses this battery type.

It would be difficult to ascertain that a vaping device in amongst 8-9 tonne of waste caused a fire, as a fire would destroy what is a very small piece of kit.

It may be helpful to contact the rubbish collection companies and landfill operators in the area directly to get information on fires from lithium ion batteries, including vaping devices.

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 Daniel Haigh (Group Manager Community Infrastructure) on [REDACTED].

Ngā mihi



Steve McTaylor-Biggs
Executive Sponsor