From: <u>Information Management Team</u>

To: Cc:

Ravi Soni

Subject: RE: Request For Official Information [#62892H]

Date: Thursday, 16 September 2021 9:43:00 AM

Tēnā koe

We refer to your information request dated 24 August 2021.

Please see below the responses to your requests for information.

Part One:

1. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to the Ministry Of Justice for collection?

Response: Yes

2. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to private debt collection companies for collection?

Response: No

3. If yes to question number 2 above, what legislation formally allows you to do this?

N/A

4. Does your council either yourself or using a third party update individuals personal credit file history with regards to unpaid infringements?

Response: Parking Services refer unpaid fines to Ministry of Justice. Information on their process is available on their website https://www.justice.govt.nz/fines/about-fines/. We do not refer unpaid fines to any other organisation.

5. If yes to number 4, do you use the standard Ministry Of Justice "fines" process which is automatically removed from an individuals personal credit file upon payment of the fines, or do you use a private third party credit reporting agency or debt collection company, which remains on a individuals personal credit file for 5 years from the date of listing?

Response: Parking Services refer unpaid fines to Ministry of Justice. Information on their process is available on their website https://www.justice.govt.nz/fines/about-fines/. We do not refer unpaid fines to any other organisation.

6. With regards to number 5 above, do you authorise credit reporting agencies and or debt collection companies to remove credit defaults from individuals personal credit files following the payment of infringement notices or do you persist they remain for the maximum time allowable by privacy law?

Response: Parking Services refer unpaid fines to Ministry of Justice. Information on their process is available on their website

https://www.justice.govt.nz/fines/about-fines/. We do not refer unpaid fines to any other organisation.

7. Do you allow individuals to come to a payment arrangement prior to referring unpaid infringement notices to any of the above sources, or similar to some government agencies (Eg: Nz Police) do you refuse to allow direct payment arrangements?

Response: Parking Services do not have any provision to set up part payment arrangements, however Parking Services do extend the final date of payment to the maximum to assist with payment.

Part Two:

- 1. In the twelve month ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to the Ministry Of Justice for formal collection?
 - **Response:** 11,757
- 2. In the twelve months ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to private debt collection (any other company or organisation that is not the Ministry Of Justice) for collection?

Response: Parking Services refer unpaid fines to Ministry of Justice. We do not refer unpaid fines to any other organisation.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this email (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā

Kate Ostapowicz

Senior Advisor, Official Information

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand C 027 265 5849 W www.huttcity.govt.nz

From: Information Management Team **Sent:** Friday, 27 August 2021 1:23 PM

To:

Subject: RE: Request For Official Information [#62892H]

Tēnā koe

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REQUEST

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your official information request dated 24 August 2021 for information regarding infringement notices.

We received your request on 25 August 2021. We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

If any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us so that these can be taken into account.

Nāku noa, nā Hutt City Council

----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 8:04 PM

To: "contact@huttcity.govt.nz" <contact@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: Request For Official Information

Request Made Under The Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987.

24th August 2021

Dear Hutt City Council,

With reference to the relevant section/s of the above act, I kindly request the following information from your council.

I have split my request into two parts:

Part One:

- 1. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to the Ministry Of Justice for collection?
- 2. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to private debt collection companies for collection?
- 3. If yes to question number 2 above, what legislation formally allows you to do this?
- 4. Does your council either yourself or using a third party update individuals personal credit file history with regards to unpaid infringements?
- 5. If yes to number 4, do you use the standard Ministry Of Justice "fines" process which is automatically removed from an individuals personal credit file upon

payment of the fines, or do you use a private third party credit reporting agency or debt collection company, which remains on a individuals personal credit file for 5 years from the date of listing?

- 6. With regards to number 5 above, do you authorise credit reporting agencies and or debt collection companies to remove credit defaults from individuals personal credit files following the payment of infringement notices or do you persist they remain for the maximum time allowable by privacy law?
- 7. Do you allow individuals to come to a payment arrangement prior to referring unpaid infringement notices to any of the above sources, or similar to some government agencies (Eg: Nz Police) do you refuse to allow direct payment arrangements?

Part Two:

- 1. In the twelve month ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to the Ministry Of Justice for formal collection?
- 2. In the twelve months ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to private debt collection (any other company or organisation that is not the Ministry Of Justice) for collection?

I look forward to this information being provided.

Yours Faithfully,