

**From:** [Dean Bentley](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Kate Ostapowicz](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information Act request [#6204CL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 10 August 2021 12:20:50 PM

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information about smoke nuisances. I am able to advise as follows:

1. When assessing smoke nuisances under the either the Health Act 1956 or Council's Prevention of nuisance from fires and smoke bylaw 2018, Council Officer's will make their assessment taking into consideration the following criteria:
  - Whether the wood-burner is consented (building consent) by Council, and is compliant with that consent.
  - Whether the chimney has been cleaned in the past twelve months.
  - The nature and volume of smoke being emitted (not just at start up). As a general guide, the smoke should be light grey/brown in colour, and dissipate fairly quickly.
  - The materials being burnt are appropriate. (Clean, dry paper, cardboard, untreated timber)
  - The operation of the wood-burner is in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and not being overly damped, or for open fireplaces, the fire is not being over loaded with wood.
2. In the last 5 years, Council Officers have sent 42 letters to owners/occupiers in response to a complaint, requesting that appropriate guidelines (in line with the assessment criteria above) be adopted to ensure that no (unreasonable) smoke discharges arises. This number includes outdoor open burning also as our files do not distinguish between those and fireplaces/wood burners.

I trust that this information is of use, however do please feel free to contact me on 04 5706 946 should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Regards

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**From:** contact mailbox  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 August 2021 8:38 AM  
**To:** Information Management Team  
**Subject:** FW: Official Information Act request [#6204CL]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 August 2021 7:18 PM  
**To:** "contact@huttcity.govt.nz" <contact@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Official Information Act request

**To whom it may concern**

Please provide the following information:

1. A detailed copy/list of the criteria or methods used by Hutt City Council to determine whether wood smoke from a domestic chimney is a nuisance as per council's responsibilities under section 29(m) of The Health Act 1956.

2. Confirmation of how many abatement notices have been issued to owners of domestic fireplaces/woodburners in the past 5 years (since August 2016).

Regards

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.