

From: [Information Requests](#)
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: A response to your LGOIMA request: Use of captive bolt guns (Turner)
Date: Monday, 11 May 2026 1:27:10 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Tēnā koe Grace,

Thank you for your request of 8 May 2026 regarding the use of captive bolt guns for dog euthanasia.

In response to your questions, Council does not use captive bolt guns to euthanise dogs. As a result, the follow-on questions regarding numbers, dates, classifications, policy, veterinary presence specific to that method, and any review or cessation of its use do not apply.

Euthanasia of dogs is carried out by qualified veterinarians at external veterinary clinics. Council's Animal Services team coordinates this process as required, but Council staff do not perform euthanasia themselves. Dogs may be euthanised in a range of circumstances, including where they are unclaimed and unsuitable for rehoming, when they are surrendered and not suitable for rehoming, or where this is required as part of enforcement under the Dog Control Act.

We trust this information satisfies your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at:

[Contact the Ombudsman | Ombudsman New Zealand](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui,

Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

P: 04 570 6666 | **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



From: Information Requests

Sent: Monday, 11 May 2026 8:10 am

To: 'Grace Turner'

Subject: Your LGOIMA request: Use of captive bolt guns (Turner)

Tēnā koe Grace,

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 8 May 2026, for information on the use of captive bolt guns for dog euthanasia.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible, and no later than 20 working days from the date it was received. Based on this timeframe, you can expect a

response by **8 June 2026**. If we are unable to respond by that date, we will notify you of an extension.

If the information you have requested is no longer required, we would appreciate you letting us know.

Please note that we may publish our response to your request, including your name, on Council's website if we consider there is a public interest in sharing the information provided to you. You can view published responses at: [Proactive releases | Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui,

Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

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From: Grace Turner s7(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 8 May 2026 1:18 pm

To: Information Requests <informationrequests@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: Official information request - bolt guns

You don't often get email from s7(2)(a) [Learn why this is important](#)

Tēnā koutou,

I am writing to request information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

1. Use of captive bolt guns

Please advise whether the Hutt City Council has used a captive bolt gun (also known as a bolt gun or captive bolt device) to euthanise dogs at any time during the last six (6) months.

Please answer yes or no.

2. Number of dogs affected

If the answer to question 1 is **yes**, please provide:

- a) The number of dogs euthanised using a captive bolt gun
- b) The dates (or date range) on which captive bolt guns were used
- c) Whether the dogs were:

- Owned / identified
 - Unclaimed / impounded
 - Classified as dangerous or menacing
- (Please provide counts where available.)

3. Context and policy

Please provide:

- a) The policy, procedure, or guideline (current or recent) governing the use of captive bolt guns for dog euthanasia
- b) Whether a veterinarian was present or involved in any capacity when captive bolt guns were used
- c) The job titles of staff authorised to carry out euthanasia using this method (e.g., animal control officers, contractors)

4. Alternatives and review

Please advise:

- a) What alternative euthanasia methods are available or routinely used by your council
- b) Whether your council has reviewed, suspended, or ceased the use of captive bolt guns in the last 24 months (and if so, when).

Thanks

Grace