



15 May 2025

Dawn McKinley

s7(2)(a)

Dear Dawn

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987**

We refer to your official information request dated 14 April 2025:

*“...A constituent has raised concerns about the decision to ban leashed dogs from Avalon Park. Would it be possible to have a background summary on the proposal. The constituent has made a submission to the proposal and said many responsible dog owners who walk their dogs at the park will be greatly impacted if this decision were to go ahead.”*

**Answer:**

The proposal to prohibit dogs from parts of Avalon Park comes in response to safety concerns from the Animal Services team. There are many children that play in the southern section of Avalon Park (playground, skate park, bike track, on the grass and around the pond). There are concerns a child may be injured by an uncontrolled dog.

Section 10(4)(b) of the Dog Control Act gives Council the ability to avoid the potential danger of having dogs in a particular area that is frequented by children.

There have been 26 complaints or reports received between 2020 to 2024 related to dogs at Avalon Park. It's not possible to determine which complaints constitute offences, as they are based on public reports and can't be verified retrospectively. Officers have reported that they have seen dogs regularly off leash and on leash both on and off the designated walking paths under the current rules.

Council does not have any data capturing how many dogs have strayed off designated paths. Our Animal Services team uses a graduated enforcement approach, so owners of dogs straying off-path are usually given a warning rather than an infringement notice.

Please note that the subcommittee is hearing submissions on Monday 19 May 2025 before making recommendations to Council on any changes to the bylaw. Please view all info here - [Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy | Have your say - Hutt City Council](#)

[Agenda of Hearings Subcommittee - Monday, 19 May 2025](#)

You can livestream the hearings here - [Hutt City Council - YouTube](#)

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link: [www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases)

Yours sincerely

Lakna Siriwardena

Legal Operations Advisor