



14 April 2026

Paul Evans-McLeod

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Paul,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 16 March 2026, seeking information about the council's administration and enforcement of the Dog Control Act 1996. In response to your questions regarding dog control complaints, enforcement activity, staffing levels, budgets, and associated reports or procedures, you requested:

- 1. The number of complaints received relating to roaming dogs, dog attacks, or dogs worrying livestock or poultry.*
- 2. The number of dog attack incidents recorded during this period.*
- 3. The number of dogs seized or impounded by animal control officers.*
- 4. The number of dogs destroyed by the council, including those destroyed following attacks on livestock or other animals.*
- 5. The number of infringement notices or prosecutions issued under the Dog Control Act 1996.*
- 6. The number of dogs classified as dangerous or menacing during this period.*
- 7. The number of full-time equivalent animal control officers employed by the council each year.*
- 8. The annual budget allocated to dog control services for each year.*
- 9. Any internal reports, briefings or assessments relating to roaming or feral dog activity within the district.*



*10. Any operational policies or procedures currently used by the council for responding to reports of roaming or feral dogs.*

**Answer:**

Before addressing your questions, it is important to note that Council's animal control data is compiled and reported by financial year rather than by calendar year. Council does not consistently hold historic raw data in a form that allows reliable reporting across five complete calendar years. Readily accessible data is available from 1 July 2021 onwards, and where possible, information has been provided by financial year to reflect the way it is recorded and reported.

In response to questions 1–7, information relating to dog control complaints, enforcement activity, classifications, impoundments, euthanasia, and staffing levels is set out in Tables 1–5 below. Each table relates to a single financial year and consolidates the available operational and enforcement data for that year.

When considering the data provided in these tables, please note that complaints relating to dogs worrying livestock or poultry are not recorded as a separate category. Any such complaints would be captured within broader categories such as roaming or uncontrolled dogs. For that reason, Council is unable to separately quantify complaints relating specifically to livestock or poultry. Additionally, Council records the total number of dogs euthanised but does not record whether euthanasia occurred specifically as a result of an attack on livestock or other animals. The information provided therefore reflects total euthanasia figures only.

Regarding question 8, Council does not allocate or report a standalone budget solely for dog control services. Financial information is instead reported by service area and financial year. Budget information relating to Animal Services, which includes dog control functions, is set out in Table 6 below. For some years, this includes revenue and expenditure associated with a shared services arrangement with Wellington City Council, which ended during the 2024/25 financial year. This accounts for changes in revenue and expenditure in later years.

With respect to question 9, Council does not hold a specific set of internal reports, briefings, or assessments relating solely to roaming or feral dog activity that can be readily identified for release. Records of roaming dog activity are embedded across a very large number of service requests and operational records. Identifying, extracting, and reviewing relevant material would require substantial manual collation and redaction of personal information. Council has therefore refused this part of your request under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA.

In response to question 10, Council recently responded to a request for information regarding Animal Management Policies and Procedures, including those relevant to the response to reports of roaming or uncontrolled dogs. That response has been published on Council's website and is publicly available at: [LGOIMA response – Animal Management Policies & Processes](#).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [Office of the Ombudsman – Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases – Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui



Rebekah van der Splinter  
**Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy**

**Table 1: Dog Control Complaints, Enforcement, and Outcomes – 2021/22 Financial Year**

Category	Measure	Number
Complaints received	Roaming / uncontrolled dogs	532
	Dog attacks on people	70
	Dog attacks on other animals	81
Enforcement activity	Infringement notices issued	52
	Prosecutions determined	1
Dogs impounded or seized	Dogs seized or impounded	375
Dog classifications	Dangerous classifications made	4
	Menacing classifications made	28
Outcomes	Dogs euthanised (total)	82
Staffing	Animal control officers (FTE)	6

*Note: Complaints relating to dogs worrying livestock or poultry are not recorded as a separate category and are included within roaming or uncontrolled dog complaints. Council does not record whether euthanasia occurred specifically as a result of an attack.*

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**Table 2: Dog Control Complaints, Enforcement, and Outcomes – 2022/23 Financial Year**

Category	Measure	Number
Complaints received	Roaming / uncontrolled dogs	630
	Dog attacks on people	100
	Dog attacks on other animals	108
Enforcement activity	Infringement notices issued	306
	Prosecutions determined	3
Dogs impounded or seized	Dogs seized or impounded	423
Dog classifications	Dangerous classifications made	5
	Menacing classifications made	22
Outcomes	Dogs euthanised (total)	122
Staffing	Animal control officers (FTE)	6

*Note: Complaints relating to dogs worrying livestock or poultry are not recorded as a separate category and are included within roaming or uncontrolled dog complaints. Council does not record whether euthanasia occurred specifically as a result of an attack.*

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**Table 3: Dog Control Complaints, Enforcement, and Outcomes – 2023/24 Financial Year**

Category	Measure	Number
Complaints received	Roaming / uncontrolled dogs	712
	Dog attacks on people	124
	Dog attacks on other animals	108
Enforcement activity	Infringement notices issued	330
	Prosecutions determined	1
Dogs impounded or seized	Dogs seized or impounded	423
Dog classifications	Dangerous classifications made	5
	Menacing classifications made	45
Outcomes	Dogs euthanised (total)	135
Staffing	Animal control officers (FTE)	6

*Note: Complaints relating to dogs worrying livestock or poultry are not recorded as a separate category and are included within roaming or uncontrolled dog complaints. Council does not record whether euthanasia occurred specifically as a result of an attack.*

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**Table 4: Dog Control Complaints, Enforcement, and Outcomes – 2024/25 Financial Year**

Category	Measure	Number
Complaints received	Roaming / uncontrolled dogs	788
	Dog attacks on people	108
	Dog attacks on other animals	118
Enforcement activity	Infringement notices issued	781
	Prosecutions determined	3
Dogs impounded or seized	Dogs seized or impounded	390
Dog classifications	Dangerous classifications made	6
	Menacing classifications made	35
Outcomes	Dogs euthanised (total)	126
Staffing	Animal control officers (FTE)	6

*Note: Complaints relating to dogs worrying livestock or poultry are not recorded as a separate category and are included within roaming or uncontrolled dog complaints. Council does not record whether euthanasia occurred specifically as a result of an attack.*

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**Table 5: Dog Control Complaints, Enforcement, and Outcomes – 2025/26 Financial Year (to date)**

Category	Measure	Number
Complaints received	Roaming / uncontrolled dogs	504
	Dog attacks on people	62
	Dog attacks on other animals	62
Enforcement activity	Infringement notices issued	912
	Prosecutions determined	0
Dogs impounded or seized	Dogs seized or impounded	229
Dog classifications	Dangerous classifications made	4
	Menacing classifications made	26
Outcomes	Dogs euthanised (total)	64
Staffing	Animal control officers (FTE)	6

*Note: Complaints relating to dogs worrying livestock or poultry are not recorded as a separate category and are included within roaming or uncontrolled dog complaints. Council does not record whether euthanasia occurred specifically as a result of an attack.*

*Note: Figures for the 2025/26 financial year reflect data available at the time of responding and the financial year is not yet complete. These figures are subject to change.*

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**Table 6: Animal Services Budget Information by Financial Year (\$000s)**

Financial Year	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Net Surplus/(Deficit)
2021/22	2,092	2,427	(335)
2022/23	2,230	2,579	(349)
2023/24	2,315	2,613	(298)
2024/25	2,454	3,156	(702)
2025/26	1,712	2,757	(1,045)

*Note 1: Animal Services budgets include dog control functions as well as other animal-related activities. Council does not hold budget information separately attributable only to dog control services.*

*Note 2: Figures are shown in nominal \$000s and reflect adopted Annual Plan information.*

*Note 3: The 2025/26 financial reflects a reduction in both revenue and expenditure linked to the cessation of the shared services arrangement with Wellington City Council.*

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