



9 July 2025

Rhys Hurley
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Tēnā koe Rhys,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 10 June 2025, asking for information about building and resource consent charges, particularly those related to the installation of fireplaces in private residential homes.

Please find our responses below.

- 1. A copy of the current schedule of charges for building and resource consents, including (but not limited to) those applicable to the installation of woodburners or fireplaces in private residential homes.*

Answer: A resource consent is not required for the installation of a wood burner or fireplace in most cases. The only exception is if the property is a heritage building, in which case a resource consent may be necessary. The cost of such a consent would depend on the scope of the proposed work.

A copy of Hutt City Council's resource consent fees and charges can be found at: [Resource consents | Hutt City Council](#)

For building consents, the current schedule of charges for the 2025–2026 financial year is available on the Council's website at: [Building consent charges and fees | Hutt City Council](#). Fees for fireplace-related applications have been structured to exclude digital, hardcopy, and IANZ charges to help keep costs to a minimum.

2. *A breakdown of the \$1,500 fee reportedly required to install a fireplace, including how many inspections are included and how each cost component is calculated (e.g. staff time, administration, overheads).*

Answer: As per the fee schedule, the standard fireplace installation fee includes:

- 1.5 hours of processing time
- 0.5 hours of administration time
- 1 inspection

Digital, hardcopy, and IANZ fees have been excluded from these types of applications to help keep costs to a minimum.

3. *A list of all consent categories that typically involve only a single inspection, along with their associated fees.*

Answer: Consent categories that typically involve only a single inspection include Freestanding and inbuilt fires and Certificates of Public Use.

Associated fees vary depending on the scope of work and are outlined in the building consent fee schedule.

4. *Any benchmarking, internal reports, or external reviews conducted in the last 3 years comparing Hutt City Council's consent charges to those of other territorial authorities.*

Answer: Hutt City Council does not hold any formal benchmarking, internal reports, or external reviews conducted in the past three years specifically comparing consent charges to those of other territorial authorities.

Accordingly, this part of the request is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA, as the information requested is not held.

Council staff do, however, engage in informal discussions with other local authorities regarding consent charges. These exchanges are not documented in a structured or reportable format. Producing a summary or analysis of these interactions would require the creation of new information, which is not required under the LGOIMA.

5. *The number of fireplace-related consent applications received annually over the past three years, and the average time taken to process them.*

Answer: Over the past three years, Hutt City Council has received 255 applications for freestanding and inbuilt fireplaces. Of these, 189 have been completed and issued Code Compliance Certificates.

An analysis of processing times shows the following average time allocations per stage:

- Vetting the application: 0.3 hours
- Processing the consent: 1.2 hours
- Administration time: 0.5 hours
- Inspections: 1.5 hours

= Total average time: 3.5 hours

Under the 2025–2026 fee structure, inbuilt wood burners require two inspections. As only 1 hour of inspection time is included in the initial invoice, any additional inspection time will be charged separately. Aside from this adjustment, applications generally remain within the timeframes outlined above.

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: [How to make a complaint | Ombudsman New Zealand](#), 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R van der Splinter', written in a cursive style.

Rebekah van der Splinter
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy