



18 September 2025

Daisy Cadigan

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Daisy,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 25 August 2025, seeking information relating to population estimates, alcohol licensing activity, community objections to off-licence applications, correspondence with central government regarding alcohol law reform, and the status of a Local Alcohol Policy in our district.

On 27 August 2025, we sought clarification from you on two aspects of your request. That same day you responded and confirmed that you are seeking data broken down by calendar year (January to December), and that your interest is limited to applications for entirely new off-licence premises, excluding those that were previously licensed but have changed ownership.

Responses to each of your questions are provided below.

1. *The most recent population estimate for your district:*

Answer: As at 30 June 2024, the estimated resident population of Lower Hutt was 115,500. This figure is sourced from Stats NZ: [Lower Hutt City, Place and ethnic group summaries | Stats NZ](#).

2. *The number of off-licences in your district in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and currently:*

Answer: Please refer to the following table, which provides the number of off-licences recorded in our district by calendar year. These figures reflect the total number of licences held at the end of each year and may include licences that were renewed, transferred, surrendered, or newly issued.

Year	Number of Off-Licences
2021	55
2022	58
2023	54
2024	56
2025	56

3. *The number of applications to open off-licences in your district over the past three years, broken down by year:*

Answer: Two applications for entirely new off-licence premises were received during this period – one in 2021 and one in 2023. No applications were received in 2022, 2024, or to date in 2025. This data excludes applications for premises that were previously licensed but have changed ownership.

4. *The number of times applications for off-licences have been denied due to objections by people in the community over the past three years, broken down by year:*

Answer: No applications have been declined due to community objections during this period.

5. *Any correspondence your organisation has had with central government agencies or Ministers regarding reforms to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act in the past year:*

Answer: We have checked with the team responsible for alcohol licensing and policy, and they have confirmed that they have not sent or received direct correspondence with central government agencies or Ministers on this topic in the past year. However, central government often communicates with local authorities via sector forums such as Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

For example, Council received notice of the *Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Sales on Anzac Day Morning, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Day) Amendment Bill*, via LGNZ's regulatory bulletin in April 2025.

While this was distributed through LGNZ, we consider it to be a form of communication originating from central government. A copy of the relevant internal email is attached for your reference. Please note that direct dial phone numbers have been redacted from the attachment under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Further information about the Bill is available on the New Zealand Parliament website: [Sale and Supply of Alcohol Amendment Bill – NZ Parliament](#).

Please also note that Council does not maintain a centralised repository of all correspondence, so while we have made reasonable efforts to identify relevant material, we cannot definitively confirm that no correspondence exists elsewhere within the organisation.

6. *Whether your district has a Local Alcohol Policy (yes or no):*

Answer: Yes. Hutt City Council has a Local Alcohol Policy in place. The policy sets out restrictions on the location and trading hours of licensed premises and was developed under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. It is publicly available on our website and can be accessed here: [Hutt City Council Local Alcohol Policy](#).

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

From: [Dean Bentley](#)
To: [Justin Roberts](#); [Tracy Gibson](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Open for submissions - week ended 11 April 2025
Date: Friday, 11 April 2025 10:46:27 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[ATT00001.png](#)

Yes the link works for me.

The new Govt looking to free things up and remove restrictions on days and hours of trade.

I recall that they were going to do away with the community participation bill also and return things back to how they were previously with regard to hearings.

Dean Bentley
[Environmental Health Manager](#)

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010
P: 04 570 6946 **M:** [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



From: Justin Roberts <Justin.Roberts@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 10:35 AM
To: Dean Bentley <Dean.Bentley@huttcity.govt.nz>; Tracy Gibson <Tracy.Gibson@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Open for submissions - week ended 11 April 2025

Hi team,

Have you seen this? I also don't have access.

Regards

Justin

Justin Roberts
[Head of Environmental Protection](#)

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010
P: **M:** [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



From: Josy Bryan <Josy.Bryan@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 9:28 am
To: Justin Roberts <Justin.Roberts@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Open for submissions - week ended 11 April 2025

Morning Justin,

Cfyi but the link doesn't work for me.

Just for awareness I suppose.

Josy

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

From: Regulatory Managers/Officers on behalf of Raymond Horan
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 08:38
To: REGULATORY@LGCONNECT.CO.NZ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Open for submissions - week ended 11 April 2025

[Open for Submissions 25-4-11.docx](#)

Kia ora e te whanau ngā kaunihera o Aotearoa,

Attached is this week's edition.

One new initiative this week - the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Sales on Anzac Day Morning, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Day) Amendment Bill. This is the first of a couple of bills dealing with who can buy alcohol and when that have been pulled from the members' bill ballot. This one has survived first reading. More on the other next week with the tracker.

Lets be careful out there.

lgconnect.co.nz



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Jo-Anne Bryan
Business Manager

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