



27 February 2026

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Tēnā koe Federico,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 28 January 2026, seeking information about disputes, unpaid rates and the impact on Council resources. Specifically, you requested:

*Please provide the following information for the period January 2022 – today:*

- 1) The number of personal grievances or formal complaints relating to disputes with the public over council rules or statutory obligations, and any high-level reports or summaries about trends or impacts of these disputes on staff or council operations.*
- 2) The number of cases where people have disputed or delayed paying rates, fees, or charges, or refused to comply with council requirements (for example, dog registration), and any summaries or reports describing the nature or volume of these disputes.*
- 3) Total costs, including legal fees, court or debt recovery costs, or extra staff time, related to handling the above disputes, and any reports or summaries assessing the impact on council resources or finances.*
- 4) The number of LGOIMA requests received that relate to disputes over council rules, charges, or enforcement, and any internal summaries or reports about high-volume requests or the impact of repeated requests on staff and operations.*



On 28 January 2026, Council sought clarification of your request as the wording described broad behavioural categories that are not recorded or searchable in our systems. Through further correspondence on 29 January, Council explained that it does not track interactions by reference to concepts such as challenges to Council's jurisdiction, the use of pseudo-legal terminology, or disputes framed in terms of maritime or admiralty law. These matters are not coded or classified in any dataset and identifying them would require subjective assessment of individual interactions across many teams.

You responded to that email on 29 January 2026 and confirmed that your clarified request is as follows:

*Feel free to rescope the request for the period January 2022-today as follows:*

- 1) the number of trespass notices issued every year, including any notes taken by council employees or following emails by staff regarding exceptional or repeated incidents*
- 2) the total number of LGOIMA requests received each year, highlighting individuals who make an exceptional number of requests or requests that are refused as they were considered vexatious (LGOIMA 17(h))*
- 3) rates arrears totals or enforcement activity volumes with a focus on exceptional cases where people have refused to pay rates for at least one year, or are disputing the legality of rates, or instances where the council has disputed the unpaid rates through court*

**Answer:**

Before addressing your questions about trespass notices, it is important to note that Council only introduced a centralised system for recording these in mid-2025. Earlier trespass notices were not recorded in a central system, so Council does not hold full incident details for those notices, including total numbers issued.

However, based on the information held, Council issued 9 trespass notices in 2023, 12 in 2024, and 27 in 2025. The information available shows recurring themes of verbal aggression, threatening or intimidating behaviour, anti-social

behaviour in Council facilities, repeat behaviours rather than isolated events, and, in some cases, Police attendance.

Copies of the event notes that can be retrieved are attached. These notes relate to different individuals and separate incidents, but because identifying information must be withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA to protect the privacy of natural persons, the released copies cannot be differentiated or linked to particular people.

In response to your questions about LGOIMA request volumes, Council received 221 requests in 2022, 288 in 2023, 144 in 2024, 344 in 2025, and 24 requests between 1 January and 29 January 2026. You also asked for information about individuals who make an “exceptional” number of requests, and for any requests refused as vexatious. Council does not record information according to whether a requester is a high-volume or “exceptional” requester, and determining what constitutes “exceptional” would require Council to form an opinion rather than provide information held in recorded form. That part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA because the information is not held. For completeness, Council has not refused any LGOIMA requests under section 17(h) as frivolous or vexatious during the period covered by your request.

Regarding your questions about rates arrears, “arrears” refers to rates from previous financial years that remain unpaid. As at 31 December 2025, approximately 1,477 properties had one year of arrears totalling around \$5.9 million, 441 properties had two years of arrears totalling around \$1.4 million, 146 properties had three years of arrears totalling around \$432,000, and 116 properties had three or more years of arrears totalling around \$329,000. These figures are rounded for clarity. Council does not record the reasons why individuals may dispute or delay payment, and we do not categorise arrears by reference to motivations or beliefs such as disputing the legality of rates. Identifying such cases would require Council to interpret individual motivations or beliefs and to make subjective assessments of unstructured records. Council does not hold information in that form, and the LGOIMA does not require Council to create new information or form an opinion in order to respond. A search of internal memos returned no results for the term ‘Sovereign Citizen’.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebekah'.

Rebekah van der Splinter

**Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy**

Display ID Number	Date Issued	Derived Event Details	Link to Events
3970	24/12/2025	came into the pool and went straight through without paying I then approached asking to pay after discussing gave me card to pay for when walking away said "If I don't give it to you from the front you can get it from the back" this made me extremely uncomfortable I ignored it and walked away I then asked 57(2)(a) could call the police said can be removed as I didn't feel comfortable talking to myself of sending other staff to do so, as I was walking outside to wait for the police made more rude gestures to me and barked at me, while waiting for police 57(2)(a) said was asking lifeguards things like "can you put sunscreen on my back" "do you smoke" and also talking to members for the public also got changed poolside.	Event #3887 - Incident - man trespassed for inappropriate behavior - 24-Dec-2025 11:30 am
3909	29/12/2025	57(2)(a) Involved Staff Member was advised that 57(2)(a) had previously been told to swim only in the main pool. approached near the Deep Kids pool to reiterate this instruction. became verbally aggressive and used abusive language moved towards in an aggressive manner. then pushed with two hand making stumble backwards raised hands to create space to prevent being struck punched downward onto arm and continued advancing intervened and positioned between and removed to the break room and waited for police arrival. - Witness Statement was asked by reception to speak with regarding rules for not to enter the kids pools. did not respond appropriately and became aggressive. approached in an intimidating manner. stepped back and raised hands defensively struck arm while continuing to advance. Staff intervened and separated the parties. was escorted away from poolside and police were contacted. - Witness Statement was reminded that was not permitted to use the Deep Kids pool. became verbally aggressive and confrontational stepped towards and appeared intent on physical confrontation. attempted to de-escalate and maintain distance. made physical contact with Staff intervened and the situation was controlled until police arrived.	Event #3899 - Incident - Physical altercation involving a member of the public and staff member - 29-Dec-2025 11:55 am
3775	10/12/2025	I served a trespass notice to 57(2)(a) at am for a number of complaints and incidents where behaviour was not in line with our Library/ site expectations. I indicated those on the poster we have began to film me with phone, asking for my name which I gave and indicated my information was on the trespass notice. initially accepted the trespass notice calmly and gathered his belongings. left and then came back in then approached the desk asking for me. continued to film me on phone. told me that was a member of the Queens Council and that the Police could not remove from the building because of this and that did not accept the trespass. I told that was able to follow up on this through the appropriate channels but that had to leave the building. requested that I call the Police. told me was a member of the Queen's council and that was armed. I again asked to leave the building and did. As left shouted that was a member of the Queen's council and protected and that we should pay our rates. again returned to the library citing that left hat left through the cafe doors and went into Marianna's cafe. I sent 2 members of the team unknown to into the cafe to let Marianna know and monitor the situation. We locked the library doors and I waited at the door with 57(2)(a) monitored the cafe via CCTV. We observed that was sitting quietly reading a newspaper. Meanwhile my Team Leader was on a call to the police and 57(2)(a) told us that police were on route. The cafe was busy and I made a decision to not approach or escalate the situation. The cafe is a small contained space and was busy. We monitored closely. The police arrived and escorted outside without further incident.	Event #3772 - Incident - 57(2)(a) issued with 2 Queens Drive Trespass Notice - 10-Dec-2025 11:59 am
3737	5/12/2025	57(2)(a) arrived for appointment to get a SkinnyJump modem. Based on past encounters with I suggested to I sit in on this with started asking me if could pray for my leg (I use a walking stick) and I said no. went through the SkinnyJump sign up process, asked if had access to our Wifi on phone. started on a diatribe about WINZ and how they were lucky didn't turn a table at them for not paying for phone. then said to 'are you saying I can't get a modem today then, and when I gets angry I get violent.' I asked to leave as was becoming louder and asked who I am, I said I'm the manager and again asked to leave. By this time was standing up shouting at me saying 'is prejudiced because is brown, and said to me' go fuck yourself you stupid bitch' several times. I told again to leave, and is now trespassed. was calling 111 from the first raised voices. did leave while continuing to call me a stupid bitch and prejudiced.	Event #3736 - Incident - Verbal aggression - 5-Dec-2025 10:50 am
3722	21/11/2025	Adult female named 57(2)(a) lay on the floor in the community space near the craft group, said wanted to kill herself. called 111 police and gave them a description. 57(2)(a) was seen kicking and pushing furniture, lying on floor and talking loudly to I asked to relocate the craft group and noone to enter the community space. At one point approached a customer at the desk and tried to engage with then went back and started wiping wrists with cloths. I called 111 back to escalate as it seemed was ready to self harm, and stood outside to prevent more people entering the library. When police arrived I requested they trespass as we have had several previous incidents.	Event #3689 - Miscellaneous - reporting purposes - Antisocial behaviour - 21-Nov-2025 2:10 pm
3676	18/11/2025	57(2)(a) who we believe was trespassed by police from War Memorial Library came into the library. I was informed was in and went over and said you are trespassed and asked to leave. started swearing and calling me a "lesbian bitch" and more swearing at me but was moving towards the door when rushed over saying you can't talk to our staff like that. then threatened to punch/beat I told (a casual) to call the police. Two members of the public who I believe were friends moved out to the foyer before made sure left. As was leaving threatened to "burn this building down" and said something about killing us. I then went and took over the call with the police. locked the doors and was keeping an eye on them. We were told the police were on their way and they were going to look for I wasn't able to find the trespass record, but we believe the police have trespassed from this site. I didn't get the Police reference number can be seen of camera WML - C03 - War Memorial Doors - 17/11/2025 @ 12:07:01,724 pm	Event #3668 - Incident - breach of trespass - 17-Nov-2025 12:00 pm
3663	11/11/2025	Customer screaming threatened to "unlash hell" and demanded we bow down to or we would be punished. ran around the side of the building and came back in through war memorial doors, another customer physically removed from the building and I bolted the doors behind. Police called called 111	Event #3418 - Miscellaneous - reporting purposes - Verbal threats to patrons and staff - 23-Aug-2025 2:23 pm
3649	8/11/2025	I was starting a Storytime session in the children's area of our library. I had 7 people attending, including 4 young children and their parents. I was singing the welcome song with the group which included background music. Suddenly I heard shouting and saw coming towards us (because of where I was sitting I had a better view of than the group) from the right side of the library. It was a customer known to us as 57(2)(a) shouted "why is this happening?" and told me I should be quiet and should stop. While shouting was jabbing finger at me and standing over the children. I told this was a children's Storytime and can go to another part of the library or leave. At this point was close to the children and the parents were very concerned (particularly one father) turned back and walked away then immediately came back and started shouting at me again. arrived and told to call police which did went back to his seat. The Storytime had been rudely disrupted but everyone was keen to continue so I moved onto reading some stories and managed to finish the session. The police arrived, spoke to and removed him from the building. The officer came back and spoke to me said he told that behaviour was unacceptable, that had complained about the noise I was making and was told that this is a public library and we can play whatever songs we want. The officer told us that tries to return to tell is not welcome here and is trespassed said a verbal trespass was enough for today).	Event #3647 - Miscellaneous - reporting purposes - Anti-social and intimidating behaviour from customer - Storytime disrupted - 8-Nov-2025 11:05 am
3645	5/11/2025	Person of concern appears to be seeking out a specific staff member at Moera Neighbourhood Hub. On Friday around 2pm person came into the Moera Hub vaping causing myself and 57(2)(a) to approach asking for them to leave while they appeared to be impaired possibly by drugs they were verbalising, although not in language I understood, possibly a mix of languages. Their intent was clear. They were seeking a specific colleague. When told they were not at work they were agitated and accused of lying. I advanced on identified as and asked to remove from vaping in the Hub. I felt unsafe for both myself and for my colleague despite not being present. The person appeared agitated in an obsessive way and not coherent, I am concerned for my colleagues welfare being the unwanted object of an obsession.	Event #3548 - Incident - Person of concern - unhealthy interest in a colleague? - 3-Oct-2025 2:10 pm
3631	5/11/2025	An unknown member was working out and when member A walked past the unknown member who then became aggressive and starting to threaten to smash teeth in, take outside and name calling.	Event #3549 - Miscellaneous - reporting purposes - Aggressive and threatening behavior - 6-Oct-2025 7:30 am

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987



3015	18/10/2024
3000	16/05/2025
2846	28/03/2025
2775	14/02/2025
2705	1/11/2024
2549	22/12/2023

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