



6 December 2024

John Fahey



Dear John Fahey

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

We refer to your official information request dated 20 November 2024 for Information. We will answer each of your questions in turn.

- 1. What pro-active compliance activity the Hutt City Council Animal Services Team have carried out in this area of the regional park to ensure that the requirement that dogs be on a leash is being complied with.**

Animal Services proactively patrols high risk areas and responds to complaints for other areas. Animal Services has received only a few complaints for Belmont Regional Park. Animal Services has a good relationship with Park Rangers, and they report the owners to HCC Animal Control Officers (ACO) if dogs are found off leash.

- 2. On how many occasions have the Hutt City Council Animal Services Team visited this area of the regional park and walked the tracks; on weekdays, and on weekends.**

HCC does collect information regarding the frequency of patrols. Patrolling is not carried out on weekends. HCC does not keep records of any visits as this is not a requirement by Council. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.



**3. What level of compliance did the Hutt City Council Animal Services Team find.**

Officers investigated the infringement records and were able to report that 17 infringements have been issued under S20(5) for breach of bylaw since 2007. Examples of a breach of bylaw include, but are not limited to:

- Having a dog off lead in an area where a lead is required.
- Having a dog in an area where dogs are prohibited.
- Having more than two dogs on a premises without a license

We don't collect information regarding where infringements are issued so are unable to answer whether these occurred in the Belmont Regional Park.

**4. How many fines were imposed on dog owners who were found not to be complying with the requirement that their dog be on a leash.**

Council does not hold this information. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

**5. How many dog-related incidents have been reported over this period.**

In this period there have been 11 dog related incidents reported.

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

Philip Rossiter

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