

From: Information Management Team
Sent: Friday, 23 December 2022 7:06 pm
To: Rod Badcock <fyi-request-21128-d25f8bc5@requests.fyi.org.nz>
Subject: Official Information request - Off-leash dog exercise policy and safety on shared paths

Kia ora Rod

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

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2022.

Additional information and responses to your points are provided below.

1. The Hutt City Council is not able to provide an accurate date for the GIS map, but it is likely from 2015 or thereabouts.
2. Hutt City Council is not aware of receiving any other requests for information about the status of off-leash dog exercise areas in sealed path locations. Any information we have provided to the Environment Court is publicly available here: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/riverlink-consent>
3. Signage is placed on the riverbank at entrances that are alongside residential areas (for example, at Mill Street, Block Road and Melling Reserve), as these entrances are the most used by dog owners.
4. Please see the response to question 3 above. We are unable to advise when new signage will be installed because future actions of the Hutt City Council are, at this stage, unknown.
5. We are not aware of any other advice being given about the status of off-leash dog exercise areas in sealed path locations, other than that provided on the Council's website and riverbank signage. As advised above, any information we have provided to the Environment Court is publicly available here: <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/riverlink-consent>.

The final design of the RiverLink active transport network will be developed in accordance with the consent conditions as directed by the Environment Court. The Hutt City Council has not yet commenced the final design to determine how the consent conditions will be translated into the project.

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 www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response may be published on the Council's website.

Ngā mihi

Susan Sales

Ringa Āwhina Tāhūhū ki Te Koromatua | Senior Advisor Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand
Paetukutuku: www.huttcity.govt.nz

From: Rod Badcock <fyi-request-21128-d25f8bc5@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 3:54 pm

To: Information Management Team <informationmanagementteam@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Official Information request - Off-leash dog exercise policy and safety on shared paths

Dear Susan,

I note that the specific questions **have not been answered**. Please ensure that the questions are answered In particular:

Q1 Has not been answered.

Q2 Has not been answered - you have provided specific written instruction to environment court on Riverlink. Please answer.

Q3. Has not been answered. There is no clear signage posted on the sections identified by the 2015 bylaw that specifically states this is required.

Q4 Has not been answered, and is incorrect. Please review what signage, and where, is in place as per 2015 bylaw

Q5 Not answered. HCC has provided official response to the environment court and others. This is not stated here.

The Officers response is deficient in information, quality, and content. It seems probable that this was a minimal effort. There can be **no** justification for the delay in responding.

Does this really need the ombudsmen to be involved for HCC to respond?

Rod

Yours sincerely,

Rod Badcock

20 December 2022

Rod Badcock

fyi-request-21128-d25f8bc5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rod

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

We refer to your official information request dated 15 November 2022, as follows:

1. *When was the GIS map released that shows this incorrect designation of off-leash dog exercise on sealed paths?*
2. *How many requests, and when, have HCC had about the status of off-leash dog exercise areas in sealed path locations of the Hutt River?*
3. *Why are the off-leash dog walking exclusion areas not clearly identified as per 2015 Bylaw?*
4. *When will clear and complete signage be placed to make clear the off-leash exclusion areas?*
5. *What advice (and when) has HCC given to members of the public, or official responses, about status of off-leash dog exercise areas and the sealed paths on the Hutt River?*
6. *What incidents with off-leash dogs, and how many, are HCC aware of on sealed paths on the Hutt River?*
7. *Will HCC enact the 2015 bylaw and remove all shared cycling / walking paths as being off-leash dog exercise areas on safety grounds?*

Your questions are answered below:

When was the GIS map released that shows this incorrect designation of off-leash dog exercise on sealed paths?

When the GIS map was released, the only sealed paths were those on the stop banks from Reynolds Bach Drive to Port Road.

Further, when the Dog Exercise Areas were first defined in 2015 there were only 3 categories available, these being (a) dog exercise areas, (b) dog prohibition areas and (c) dog exercise and prohibition areas.

Cycle paths and walkways were shown for interest but there were no specific conditions attached to them.

In 2017, a designated on-leash walking path was added specifically for Avalon Park, shown below:



How many requests, and when, has the Council had about the status of off-leash dog exercise areas in sealed path locations of the Hutt River?

With the exception of your correspondence, Hutt City Council has not received any official information requests about this matter in the past 12 months.

We are unable to answer your question for queries of an informal nature, as these are not recorded.

Why are the off-leash dog-walking exclusion areas not clearly identified as per the 2015 bylaw?

The off-leash dog-walking exclusion areas are identified in the Dog Control Bylaw 2015 and also on the Council’s website.

2. DOG EXERCISE AREAS	
2.11 Hutt River banks	
Area	Entrances
Eastern Bank from entrance of Stokes Valley south to White Line West	Eastern Hutt Road, High Street, Taita Drive, Harcourt Werry Drive, River Bank car park, Market Grove, St Albans Grove, Whites Line West
Hutt Riverbank	From Reynolds Bach Drive to Port Road but when using the sealed pathway on top of the riverbank all dogs must be on a leash.
Western bank from Manor Park Road to Benmore Crescent extension.	Benmore Crescent, Western Hutt Road, Manor Park Road.
Kennedy Good Bridge south to Firth’s Industrial Plant	Kennedy Good Bridge, Melling Bridge
Firth’s Industrial Park south to Ava Park	Melling Bridge, Ava Park

When will clear and complete signage be placed to make clear the off-leash exclusion areas?

There are clear signs on the sealed pathway above the riverbank that advise that dogs must be on a leash. All other paths/areas were identified by the Dog Control Bylaw 2015 as dog exercise areas and adequate signage will be placed along the new sealed footpaths on the flood plain dog exercise areas, as shown below:



What advice (and when) has HCC given to members of the public, or official responses, about status of off-leash dog exercise areas and the sealed paths on the Hutt River?

The current advice is published on the Hutt City Council website at:
<https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/services/dogs/dog-exercise-areas>.

No official information requests have been received on this matter in the past 12 months.

What incidents with off-leash dogs, and how many, is HCC aware of on sealed paths on the Hutt River?

Hutt City Council does not record these incidents.

Will HCC enact the 2015 bylaw and remove all shared cycling / walking paths as being off-leash dog exercise areas on safety grounds?

The Council will review the Dog Control Bylaw 2015 in 2025.

You can seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602. Please also note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy