

14 July 2022

Rupert Applin

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Rupert

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

We refer to your official information request dated 27 June 2022 for the following information about tracking devices (RFID tags) installed on the Council-issued rubbish bins:

- 1) *What is the purpose of this device?*
- 2) *Is this device being used?*
- 3) *If so, who captures this data and who has access to this?*
- 4) *Where is this data being stored?*
- 5) *What assurances are there that this data is secure?*
- 6) *What identifiable data is being stored with this data, address, rate payer name etc.?*
- 7) *Does Waste Management have access to this information, if so, for what purpose?*
- 8) *Was consent sought, under the Privacy Act 2020 to capture this data?*
- 9) *If this device is not being used, what is the reason for this device being installed on each rubbish wheelie bin?*

The information you have requested is provided below:

What is the purpose of this device?

Each recycling and rubbish bin has a unique RFID tag that links to a particular property identification and address. The RFID tag does not hold personal information such as residents' names or contact details.

When the truck lifts the bin, the RFID tag is scanned to identify the type of bin it is (e.g. recycling vs rubbish), its size and that it is being picked up from the correct address.

The tag is akin to a bar code but is less prone to failure. A bar code may be ripped off or become too dirty to read.

Is this device being used?

Yes

If so, who captures this data and who has access to this?

The data is captured by Hutt City Council's contractor, Waste Management NZ. Its trucks have an RFID reader aboard. The data helps Waste Management NZ and Council manage and improve the kerbside service.

Where is this data being stored?

Data about the bin type and size at each location is held by both Waste Management NZ and Hutt City Council. Waste Management NZ also holds data on when a particular bin was serviced.

What assurances are there that this data is secure?

Hutt City Council has not requested assurances regarding the security of the data, because no personal information is being captured or recorded.

What identifiable data is being stored with this data, address, rate payer name etc.?

As noted above, each RFID tag holds information on the bin service type and size. It does not hold information regarding contact details for rate payers, names of residents or other identifiable information.

Does Waste Management have access to this information, if so, for what purpose?

The data is used by Waste Management NZ to confirm the bin is the correct size and in the correct location.

Was consent sought under the Privacy Act 2020 to capture this data?

The data captured does not fall under the provisions of the Privacy Act 2020 because no personal information is recorded or captured.

If this device is not being used, what is the reason for this device being installed on each rubbish wheelie bin?

Not applicable.

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 letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales
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