

16 June 2022

Quentin Duthie

s 7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Quentin

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

We refer to your official information request dated 18 May 2022 for the following:

“...please send any reports or other documents about the state of footpaths in Lower Hutt.

Please send any assessment of public complaint/comment on footpath condition (with copies of all complaints if a summary is not available), including those received through public consultation processes, such as the annual plan.

Please also provide data on numbers of complaints re footpaths over time.

Please send information on expenditure and budgets for footpath upgrade, the nature and extent of work done recently, and the work programme for upgrade work.

Responses can be limited to the current triennium, ie. since 2019.

Footpaths include shared paths with cyclists.”

Our responses to your requests are provided below.

Public complaint/comment on footpaths, including those received through public consultation processes

Hutt City Council has received 8 complaints about footpaths since 2019. We have also received 957 communications requesting maintenance action on footpaths. Of these, 729 have been completed. These applied to issues such as potholes, cracks and tree roots.

In this year’s public engagement on the annual plan, the following feedback was received about footpaths:

- Is it possible to invest in repaving and fixing some of the roads and footpaths in Hutt area? My kids enjoy scootering and skating but have hurt themselves multiple times due to large cracks and uneven surfaces on footpaths. These cracks seem to be created by large tree roots making the ground uneven.
- In New Zealand parking vehicles on footpaths is not permitted. Some local councils such as Wellington City Council took a decision to enforce the NZ Road Rules on this matter in a consistent way.

- Parking on footpaths puts others at risk! Children, people using wheelchairs and pushchairs, those with vision impairments and all who find it hard to get past vehicles parked on footpaths.
- Many footpaths in the city are patched and uneven and combined with deep gutters and roads with a high camber this creates barriers for many people. We recommend that Council works with the disability community to prioritise remedial work that could be funded under the maintenance budget.

Expenditure and budgets for footpath upgrades, the nature and extent of work, and the work programme

The 2021/22 financial year is the first year in which specific funding has been allocated for footpath upgrade or renewal. This funding is for \$405,000 for 2021/22 and \$300,000 for associated drainage works. Please see the table below for expenditure to 30 April 2022.

	Footpaths	Drainage
Actual Cost @ 30/04/2022	\$147,223	\$146,031
Estimate To come - Adelaide	\$115,000	\$73,000
Total	\$262,223	\$219,031
Estimate To Come - Wellington	\$130,000	\$114,000
Overall Total	\$392,223	\$333,031
Budget	\$405,000	\$300,000

The 2021/22 funding has been used to upgrade Adelaide Street and Wellington Road. Adelaide Street works are scheduled to be completed by 30 June 2022. The upgrade on Wellington Road will be completed in July 2022. The work programme for 2022/23 is still being developed.

You have asked for copies of any reports or other documents about the state of footpaths in Lower Hutt. No such documents exist. Accordingly, your request for this information is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA, on the grounds that the information is not held by the Hutt City Council and we have no reason for believing that the information is either—

- held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation; or
- connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sales".

Susan Sales

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy