



17 January 2025

Susan Stanford

s7(2)(a)

Dear Susan Stanford

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

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

1. How long has your Council had either a Cat Management bylaw or included Cat Management in their Animal Management bylaw?

**Since March 2024 (Amendment to Control of Animals Bylaw 2018).**

2. How many complaints about cats has your Council received under your Cat/Animal Management bylaw per year for each year they have had a bylaw?

**EH has received 4 complaints since March 2024. How many have come through the Customer Contact Centre?**

3. What have been the outcomes of the complaints received so far?

**One complaint was referred to the SPCA. One complainant was unable to be contacted and did not return any messages. Two complaints were investigated and then referred to other cat welfare type agencies e.g. HUHA/WainuiWhiskers/Feral Nation etc.**

4. How are the Council managing complaints about cats in breach of the bylaw?

**HCC's Bylaw update in March 2024 was adopted as a means of promoting expected cat-owner behaviour through an educative approach, not a punitive one. The settings that Council has chosen align with the draft**

**National Cat Management Strategy. Enforcement mechanisms, such as infringements, have not been incorporated into the Bylaw. Council's Environmental Health team investigates complaints regarding nuisances but ultimately relies on other legislation such as the RMA and/ or Health Act to address potential nuisance effects.**

- a. What are the cat management processes and potential outcomes?  
**Complaints regarding cats are either investigated in house or referred to another appropriate agency. Workflow below:**

**Cat welfare → Customer Contact Centre forwarding to SPCA as appropriate**

**Feral/stray cats → Environmental Health forwarding to GWRC as appropriate (or cat rescues)**

**Desexing cats → Customer Contact Centre forwarding to SPCA**

**Microchipping cats → Customer Contact Centre forwarding to SPCA**

**Cat nuisance → Environmental Health**

- b. How are the Council planning to manage cats that may have to be seized?

**If cats were required to be seized under the bylaw, Council would engage an animal welfare agency to assist in capturing and sheltering the animals.**

5. Have the Council had to employ extra animal control staff with the addition of cat management to your bylaws? **No.**
6. How many prosecutions have been taken against cat owners? **0**
7. How many prosecutions do the Council envisage they will undertake in the next 12month? Five years? **0 and 0 – most issues are resolved without resorting to a prosecution. Welfare concerns are dealt with by the SPCA.**
8. Are the Council keeping a cat register? If not, how are they tracking cat registrations, microchipping and desexing?

**The Bylaw sets the expectation that cat owners register their cats on New Zealand Companion Animal Register. The Bylaw doesn't enable Council to collect registration fees, which would be necessary to fund administrative and enforcement resources.**

9. Is the Companion Animal Register sharing information with the Council about cats registered in the area? **No.**

If you are unhappy with the response to your information request, you can seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. 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

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy