



Compiled Date	14/07/2020
File Number	19.20.104

LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Private Individual
Information requested:	Further information on dog neglect, prosecutions and infringement notices
Response from:	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

14 July 2020

Private Individual

Via Email:

Dear

Official information request seeking information from the last 5 financial years of instances of dog neglect, the prosecutions or infringements notices issued in each instance.

I refer to your official information request dated 21 June 2020 seeking clarification for LGOIMA request dated 24 May 2020.

Prior to November 2017 Dog Control was carried out in Westland District by the (Hokitika) SPCA under contract to the Council. On termination of that contract all locatable SPCA dog control records and paper files were digitised and transferred to Westland District Council operational records. A number of paper files were not able to be located during that digitising process.

The majority of, if not all, welfare complaints received by 'Council' dog control during the SPCA contract period were automatically referred to and investigated by the SPCA, and a 'Council record' of outcome would not have been filed in cases where a referral from Council had been made and an SPCA outcome had resulted.

You have sought clarification on the number of complaints attributed to the Welfare Category of the 2018/2019 Annual Dog Policy Report. Of the 21 complaints received, only three relate to your enquiry.

By way of explanation, due to the minimal number of categories available for annual reporting, those complaints considered related to a "Welfare" element are included under this category, rather than "General". Complaints received include, but are not limited to:

- My neighbour is at work all day and leaves their dog/dogs in the garage and it/they whine.
- My neighbour has a new dog and I'm concerned she cannot handle it.
- Our neighbour's dog is bored and keeps digging holes by our fence wanting to come and play with our dog.
- My neighbour is always yelling at their dog/dogs, and my dog, and I don't think they should own a dog.
- My neighbour never takes their dogs out for walks

Unfortunately these type of complaints skew reporting as "Welfare" isn't defined within the Dog Control Act 1996, but there is a clearly defined line of what Council is responsible for, and what should be passed on to the respective Animal Welfare Authority to investigate. As already stated above, any matter deemed to be a Welfare

matter outside of Council's legislative responsibility, is convey to the SPCA for investigation.

You have asked for the following information for the last five financial years:

- 1. The number of complaints received about each of a failure to provide a dog with proper care and attention, proper and sufficient food and water, proper and sufficient shelter, or adequate exercise.**

Failure to provide proper care and attention complaints:

09.05.2019 - 2 dogs

31.10.2018 - 1 dog

29.03.2016 - 1 dog

Inadequate exercise complaint:

18.07.2016 - 1 dog

- 2. The number of each type of instance that are discovered by dog control officers (so are in addition to those identified by a complaint).**

Failure to provide proper care and attention:

21.09.2016 - 1 dog

Failure to provide proper and sufficient shelter discovered:

13.07.2016 - 1 dog

- 3. The number of prosecutions taken, or infringement notices issued for each type of instance.**

Failure to provide proper care and attention complaints:

31.10.2018 - 1 dog, 1 Infringement

09.05.2019 - 2 dogs, 2 Infringements issued

- 4. If instances are dealt with by education, the nature of the educative process and the period and arrangements for monitoring to ensure compliance and how many instances of each type were dealt with by education.**

Inadequate exercise complaint:

18.07.2016 -1 dog. Education through an onsite discussion with immediate resolution. Referred to the SPCA for their attention.

Failure to provide proper care and attention:

21.09.2016 - 1 dog. Education on site discussion, immediate resolution.

Failure to provide proper and sufficient shelter:

13.07.2016 - 1 dog seized, discovered. Education given to owner on claim of the dog with immediate resolution. This was then verified the following day.

29.03.2016 - 1 dog. Education through on site discussion with immediate resolution. Verification through follow up checks.

5. If there is an arrangement to pass instances to the SPCA, Police or another agency for handling, how many instances of each type have been passed to each agency.

Inadequate exercise complaint:

18.07.2016 - 1 dog. Education and referral to the SPCA.

6. How many instances of each type concerned owners already known as a consequence of previous similar failures.

Failure to provide care and attention:

09.05.2019 - 2 dogs. (Known via SPCA).

7. On how many occasions has a dog control officer entered a property to provide a dog with food, water or shelter, or to seize a dog that was not provided with those things.

Failure to provide water:

09.05.2019 - 2 dogs provided with water, the 2 dogs were then later seized.

31.10.2019 - 1 dog, complaint and seized

Failure to provide proper and sufficient shelter:

13.07.2016 - 1 dog seized then claimed by the owner

8. If a dog that was not being provided with food, water or shelter was seized, in how many instances of each type was the dog returned to the owner, or destroyed, or sold or otherwise disposed of.

09.05.2019 - 2 dogs seized, the dogs were unclaimed from the pound and were re-homed.

09.07.2019 - 2 dogs discovered, the dogs were unclaimed from the pound and were re-homed.

31.10.2018 – 1 dog seized due to a complaint, the dog was unclaimed from the pound and was re-homed

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Diane Maitland, Executive Assistant on LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Bastion | Chief Executive