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:	Lauren Crimp – RNZ
Information requested:	Dog attack statistics from 2017 – 2022
Response by:	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

19 September 2022

Lauren Crimp
Reporter
RNZ

Via Email: Lauren.Crimp@rnz.co.nz

Dear Lauren

Official information request for dog attack statistics from 2017 to 2022

I refer to your official information request dated 24 August 2022 for dog attack statistics from 2017 – 2022.

You have asked for the following information:

1. **The number of registered dogs in your local authority, broken down annually and by month?**

   Please note our reporting is done by our financial year, 01 July – 30 June.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
2017/18	967	236	41	19	29	18	15	12	13	10	18	278	1656
2018/19	868	134	10	15	46	17	24	33	13	13	23	24	1220
2019/20	1085	149	61	29	36	20	26	14	15	0	13	22	1470
2020/21	1044	119	52	24	26	26	50	19	22	25	29	20	1456
2021/22	1258	247	103	76	74	66	21	17	17	12	12	19	1922

2. **The number of dog attacks on people council has recorded, broken down annually and by month?**

2017	0
2018	0
2019	2
2020	0
2021	1
2022	1

3. **The number of dog attacks on people council has recorded, broken down by whichever way you categorise the severity of an attack, annually and by month?**

   This is not measured.

4. **Among all the possible interventions on the attacking dog following an attack, please list how many of each of those interventions were taken, annually and by month (please also include for how many there was no intervention)?**

   The initial intervention is undertaken by investigation and then classified as per the Act. Annually each classified dog is checked to ensure that the owners are compliant with the classification, this includes checking on fencing, dog welfare and meeting with the owner to reinforce classification requirements.

5. **Among all the possible consequences for the dog owner following an attack, please list how many of each of those were taken, annually and by month (please also include for how many there was no consequence)?**

   Of each of the attacks as outlined, a full investigation was undertaken with the classification based on the evidential efficiency to meet the requirements of prosecution. Where possible, the position of the council would be to prosecute where necessary and elevate to a higher classification if there were a potential breach.

   The 2022 incident Council were unable to prosecute on the basis that the police were unwilling to assist with a search and seizure warrant.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses. The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website here

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Senior Administration Officer at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

Simon Bastion | Chief Executive

SB/MB