



05 October 2020

Aaron Packard

Via email: [fyi-request-13686-471ede6d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13686-471ede6d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Aaron

### **Official Information Request – Public Health Act**

I refer to your official information request received by Western Bay of Plenty District Council (Council) on 6 September 2020, where you request information regarding how the Council is using its rights under the Public Health Act to inspect rental housing properties.

The answers to your questions are set out below:


- 1. In the past five years, how many times has the Council used their rights under the Public Health Act to inspect rental housing properties?**  
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- 2. In the past five years, how many times has the Council exercised its powers to issue a repair or closure notice to landlords whose properties do not meet the Housing Improvement Regulations?**  
Council has not exercised the abovementioned powers in the last 5 years.
- 3. How do you identify which rental housing properties to inspect under the Public Health Act?**  
When Council receives complaints about the properties.
- 4. What is the process for tenants to request the Council inspect their rental housing property under the Public Health Act and provide a written report on its condition?**  
Members of the public can contact the Council via our website or free phone number to and make a "service request" to alert us of a potential breach. Council will then arrange a suitable day for an inspection and provide a report on the findings. A charge will be issued for this service of \$170 per hour.
- 5. What information is available on your website or in your publications on rental housing inspections provided by the Council?**  
There is no information on our website or in publications about rental property inspections.



- 6. What is your process for engaging with the Tenancy Tribunal to provide reports on the rental housing inspections you conduct?**
- a) A service request is made by the complainant to Council to inspect a particular rental property.
  - b) Council will provide a report based on the inspection of the property.
  - c) The tenant will receive a copy of the inspection report.
  - d) If necessary, Council will receive a request from the Tenancy Tribunal to attend a hearing as a professional witness.

Please direct any further enquiries to Greer Golding, Team Leader – Compliance ([greer.golding@westernbay.govt.nz](mailto:greer.golding@westernbay.govt.nz)).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachael Davie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rachael Davie  
**Group Manager Policy Planning & Regulatory Services**