

5 October 2020

Aaron Packard
Renters United Organiser
Via email: fyi-request-13689-07072cc5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Aaron

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your email received on 6 September 2020 requesting information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. A decision has now been made on your request pursuant to section 13 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

In response to your request, please see 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?**

We would respond to a request to inspect a rental property if concerns were raised under the Health Act 1956, but we have not received any such requests in the last five years.

- 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?**

None.

- 3. How do you identify which rental housing properties to inspect under the Public Health Act?**

We do not have a monitoring programme with criteria to inspect rental houses. The Council do not own residential rental 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?**

The Whakatāne District Council does not have a formal policy on this issue, as health concerns around rental properties are not often raised with us. We assume they are more likely to be raised with the landlord or their representative in the first instance. When the

occasional referral to Council occurs, each case is responded to on its merits considering the health risks identified. If the Tenancy Tribunal requested Whakatāne District Council to inspect a property on its behalf, we would do that provided the owner was also aware that an inspection was taking place.

5. What information is available on your website or in your publications on rental housing inspections provided by the Council?

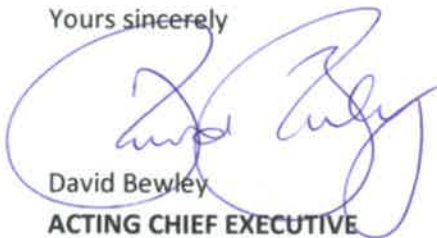
There is currently no information on our website.

6. What is your process for engaging with the Tenancy Tribunal to provide reports on the rental housing inspections you conduct?

If the Tenancy Tribunal requested the Council to carry out an inspection on a property, we would do so and provide an inspection report. We have not generally been approached by or approached the Tenancy Tribunal over such issues. We have previously talked through issues with the landlord or their representative and resolved any issues.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you are entitled to request a review by the Ombudsmen. Further information can be obtained from the following website www.ombudsmen.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



David Bewley
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE