

18 September 2020

Mr Aaron Packard

Via Email: fyi-request-13784-32493712@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Packard

Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 request

I refer to your Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (LGOIMA) request received by way of email on 14 September 2020 requesting information on Council's inspections relating to rental housing.

We respond to your request 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?*

There has been only 2 incidences over the past 5 years involving a tenant complaining about the condition of a rental house. These were actioned, including involvement from Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Tenancy Compliance and Investigations team.
- 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?*

The Council Environmental Health Officers have traditionally over the past 5 years acted on complaints and referrals. Refer to point 1) above.
- 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?*

Should a Council Environmental Health Officer receive a request from a tenant then an inspection would be undertaken.
- 5. What information is available on your website or in your publications on rental housing inspections provided by the Council?*

There is no information currently available on the Council website that particularly relates to rental housing.

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

The Council Environmental Health Officer would make contact with the MBIE Tenancy Tribunal Compliance and Investigations Team. Please note: This Council's Regulatory Manager, Team Leader Compliance and two of Councils Environmental Health Officers met with the MBIE Compliance and Investigation Team 2 years ago to discuss roles and responsibilities, in dealing with any houses that were reported to be causing public health issues to tenants.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Council's Regulatory Manager, Mr Billy Charlton on (03) 3472 800.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Ward', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

David Ward
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER