

OIR: 2223/355

8 September 2022



Request for Information under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act)

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2022 requesting the following information:

The period I would like information for is 1 Jan 2017 – 31 July 2022:

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

Please find below the number of dogs registered as of 30 June each year (which is based on our reporting structure). Further information can be found on our website here: Registration numbers are from: [Annual dog control reports - Kāpiti Coast District Council \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/annual-dog-control-reports)

2021-22	8262
2020-21	8367
2019-20	8046
2018-19	7582
2017-18	7600
2016-17	7356

As required by statute we record annual registrations; that is to say, it is a legal requirement to register one's dog annually, therefore we do not record and report on a monthly basis the movement in registration numbers. Council staff would have to spend a substantial amount of time assessing records to provide you with the numbers broken down by month. I am therefore unable to provide this information as it is not held in a manner that would allow this information to be easily calculated.

Consideration has been given to whether your request could be further refined. However, in this situation we do not consider this would be possible. As such I refuse your request under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I have considered whether we would be able to respond to this part of your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Council's ability to undertake its day-to-day work would be significantly impacted.

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

Please find below the information requested regarding dog attacks, noting this report is based on the dates you provided.

Month	Records
Jan-17	2
Feb-17	4
Mar-17	4
Apr-17	4
May-17	4
Jun-17	4
Jul-17	1
Aug-17	1
Sep-17	2
Oct-17	3
Nov-17	3
Dec-17	6
Jan-18	4
Mar-18	4
Apr-18	6
May-18	3
Jun-18	2
Jul-18	4
Aug-18	4
Sep-18	1
Oct-18	3
Nov-18	3
Dec-18	5
Jan-19	3
Feb-19	3
Mar-19	4
Apr-19	2
May-19	6
Jun-19	2
Jul-19	4
Aug-19	2
Sep-19	4
Oct-19	8
Nov-19	5
Dec-19	5
Jan-20	4
Feb-20	4
Mar-20	2
Apr-20	6

Month	Records
Jun-20	2
Jul-20	3
Aug-20	3
Sep-20	3
Oct-20	1
Nov-20	4
Dec-20	3
Jan-21	3
Feb-21	2
Mar-21	7
Apr-21	5
May-21	1
Jun-21	1
Jul-21	3
Aug-21	3
Sep-21	1
Oct-21	1
Nov-21	1
Dec-21	3
Jan-22	3
Feb-22	4
Mar-22	1
Apr-22	3
May -22	2
Jun-22	2
July-22	1
Total	207

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.

Council does not categorise dog attacks by severity. On that basis I must decline this part of your request as the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, it cannot be found, section 17(e) of the Act refers.

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).

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).

Council staff would have to spend a substantial amount of time assessing records to provide you with the numbers you have requested above. I am therefore unable to provide this information as it is not held in a manner that would allow this information to be easily calculated.

What I can advise is that we treat each case on its merits and operate a graduated response compliance model. That is, we consider all of the factors surrounding each case and take action or intervention based on all of those circumstances. The more serious the incident the more formal our response, as a general rule; seriousness could be defined by injury to another dog or person, or repeat offences for more minor matters such as wandering, rushing, barking etc.

Consideration has been given to whether your request could be further refined. However, in this situation we do not consider this would be possible. As such I refuse your request under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I have considered whether we would be able to respond to this part of your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Council's ability to undertake its day-to-day work would be significantly impacted.

I trust the information we have provided to you is helpful and I realise we have not been able to answer all of your questions for the reasons outlined above. You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, by fax to (04) 471 2254, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Jefferson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

James Jefferson

Group Manager Regulatory Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Whakaritenga