

Laura Bowman

From: Official Information
Sent: Wednesday, 7 December 2022 11:54 am
To: 7(2)(a)
Cc: Official Information
Subject: Final Response - LGOIMA 292602 - 7(2)(a) - data on illegal dumping and fines over the past five years
Importance: High

Kia Ora,

I refer to your **information request below**, Hamilton City Council is able to provide the following response.

Background information on how Hamilton City Council manages illegal dumping

Illegal dumping in Hamilton is managed by the Sustainable Resource Recovery Unit. However, multiple areas of Council, including Parks and Open Spaces, Infrastructure Alliance, and City Delivery all deal with illegal dumping in the course of duties in their respective areas.

The below information has been provided by the Sustainable Resource Recovery Unit. It does not include the complete volume or cost of illegal dumping removed from parks and reserves (including road reserves), nor does it include general roadside litter – as those issues are separately managed by teams which do not quantify the volume or cost of rubbish removal under their remit, as these teams manage its removal and disposal alongside other works they undertake.

Your Request 1:

How much has your organisation spent on removing illegally dumped rubbish in each of the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022?

Our Response 1:

On 31 August 2020, Hamilton City Council began a new contract for the delivery of rubbish and recycling services for Hamilton. This contract included the removal of items illegally dumped by the public. Within the previous contract, the volume and cost of illegal dumping was not separated out in the contract charging model. Therefore as the information sought prior to 31 August 2020 does not exist we are partially refusing this part of your request per s17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

The new contract includes separate charging for illegal dumping by number of requests and volumes, this provides significantly more data to monitor illegal dumping trends. Unfortunately, Council is not able to provide costing information regarding illegal dumping, as the details of our contractor's charging structure is commercially sensitive information. Therefore, we are withholding this information as to release it would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information per s7(2)(b)(ii) of the LGOIMA.

Your Request 2:

How much rubbish has been collected in each of the following years: 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022?

Our Response 2:

- 2020 – Data only available from 1 September 2020 (start of the new contract) 57,860kg. As the information sought prior to 01 September 2020 does not exist we are partially refusing this part of your request per s17(e) of LGOIMA.
- 2021 – 135,320kg

- 2022 – 93,310kg (to 30 September)

Your Request 3:

What was the biggest single rubbish dump which you encountered? Where and when was it, and how much rubbish was it?

Our Response 3:

On the 17 April 2021 a truckload of cobblestones and sand was dumped along the road and kerbside on Old Ruffell Road, estimated to be about 1000kg in volume.

Your Request 4:

What was the most unexpected thing found dumped?

Our Response 4:

Almost-new furniture and luggage left on the kerbside.

Your Request 5:

If your organisation can issue fines, how many were issued in each of the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022?

Our Response 5:

- 2018 – 56 infringement notices
- 2019 – 17 infringement notices
- 2020 – 21 infringement notices
- 2021 – 2 infringement notices
- 2022 – 1 infringement notice

Infringement notices (fines) are not always issued in the first instance. In some cases where the person responsible for the dumping is identified in a timely manner, they can be given the opportunity to clean up the dumped items and avoid a fine.

The decline in the number of fines issued in 2021 and 2022 reflects the impacts of COVID on Council teams and contractor staffing, and the need to reprioritise resources to focus on delivery of kerbside services. Over this time, reported instances of illegal dumping have been sent directly to our contractor for removal with no investigation conducted to identify parties responsible for the dumping. Additional resourcing is now in place to resume illegal dumping investigations.

Your Request 6:

How much was the total value of the fines in 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022?

Our Response 6:

- 2020- \$6,800
- 2021- \$700
- 2022- \$400

Your Request 7:

Over that period, what was the value of the single largest fine and what was it for?

Our Response 7:

\$400 is the maximum fine that can be issued under the Litter Act 1979.

Your Request 8:

Have any areas been identified as having a particular issue with illegal dumping?

Our Response 8:

Illegal dumping has been identified as a city-wide issue. While it is difficult to pinpoint specific suburbs, there are common factors including isolated/remote areas (city boundaries, parks and open spaces and gullies, for example), areas of high-density housing, and more recently, emergency housing areas. Another problematic area is around and outside charity stores and charity clothing bins.

Where possible, staff work with property managers and owners (including Kainga Ora) to help educate tenants how to properly dispose of their rubbish. In some cases, Council requests these organisations arrange their own removal and disposal of dumped items.

Your Request 9:

Anything else you wish to add.

Our Response 9:

Where requested and where staff identify problematic areas, we have placed signage to deter illegal dumping behaviour. Two types of signs are available, depending on the nature of the problem. One sign is a formal warning, the other sign draws more on social conscious i.e., *“Why are you dumping here?”*.

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.

Kind Regards,

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