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LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from: Aaron Packard, Renters United
Information requested: Inspections under the Public Health Act
Response from:

15 September 2020

Aaron Packard
Renters United Organiser

Via Email:

Dear Aaron

Official information request for how is Westland District Council using its rights under the Public Health Act to inspect rental housing properties.

I refer to your official information request dated 13 September for how the Westland District Council is using its rights under the Public Health Act to inspect rental housing properties.

You have asked the following:

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?

Nil. I can advise that no issues regarding the standard of rental accommodation has been brought to Council's attention for 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 notices to landlords whose properties do not meet the Housing Improvement Regulations?

Nil.

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

Council will response to any complaint regarding substandard rental accommodation.

4. What is the process for tenants to request the Council inspect their rental housing property under the Public Health Act and proved a written report on its condition?

A tenant can contact Council and make a complaint about the standard of their accommodation. An officer will inspect the property and investigate the complaint. If any issues needing repair are noted, Council will contact the property owner and get remedial action to fix the issue.

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

A copy of the Councils policy on Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings is available on the Council's website.

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

Westland District Council does not have a specific process in place. A report would be provided to the Tenancy Tribunal if required.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Senior Administration Assistant at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Bastion | Chief Executive

SB/MB