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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:	Private Individual
Information requested:	2020 Contiguous review letter
Response from:	Lesley Crichton, Acting Chief Executive

03 September 2020

Private Individual

Via Email:

Dear Private Individual,

Official information request seeking information regarding the 2020 contiguous review letter and forms sent to ratepayers.

I refer to your official information request dated 12 August 2020 seeking information regarding the 2020 contiguous review letter and forms sent to ratepayers.

Westland District Council does not have a policy on adverse possession of land. The process followed is that of section 155 of the Land Transfer Act 2017. Most land in the district has a record of title and we identify the owners based on that. In terms of the land in adverse possession, the owners are the people who are on the record of title.

The definition of “owner” as per the Local Government Rating Act 2002, states an owner is the person who, whether jointly or separately, is seized or possessed of, or entitled to, any estate or interest in land constituting a rating unit.

The term “Rating unit” means a rating unit for the purposes of the Rating Valuation Act 1998. The Act identifies two different scenarios based on whether a record of title exists.

The following is in response to your questions:

1. How many ratepayers were sent the 2020 contiguous review letter and form?

227 Ratepayers, for 808 assessments.

2. How many ratepayers responded?

174 Ratepayers.

3. How many ratepayers who were sent the contiguous review letter and forms, following the review had their rates reduced?

53 assessments.

4. How many ratepayers who were sent the contiguous review letter and forms, following the review had their rates increased?

64 assessments.

5. How many ratepayers who were sent the contiguous review letter and forms, following the review had their rates remain the same?

691 assessments.

6. How many new ratepayers (including deceased ones) were created by this review?

Nil.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Crichton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Crichton | Acting Chief Executive

LC/MB