

22 September 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 2021-93**

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2021 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

***“Part One:***

- 1. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to the Ministry Of Justice for collection?*
- 2. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to private debt collection companies for collection?*
- 3. If yes to question number 2 above, what legislation formally allows you to do this?*
- 4. Does your council either yourself or using a third party update individuals personal credit file history with regards to unpaid infringements?*
- 5. If yes to number 4, do you use the standard Ministry Of Justice “fines” process which is automatically removed from an individuals personal credit file upon payment of the fines, or do you use a private third party credit reporting agency or debt collection company, which remains on a individuals personal credit file for 5 years from the date of listing?*
- 6. With regards to number 5 above, do you authorise credit reporting agencies and or debt collection companies to remove credit defaults from individuals personal credit files following the payment of infringement notices or do you persist they remain for the maximum time allowable by privacy law?*
- 7. Do you allow individuals to come to a payment arrangement prior to referring unpaid infringement notices to any of the above sources, or similar to some government agencies (Eg: Nz Police) do you refuse to allow direct payment arrangements?*

**Part Two:**

*1. In the twelve month ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to the Ministry Of Justice for formal collection?*

*2. In the twelve months ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to private debt collection (any other company or organisation that is not the Ministry Of Justice) for collection?"*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

My response to your request is provided in the number order below.

**Part One**

**Question 1**

Yes, the Carterton District Council refers unpaid infringement notices fees to the Ministry of Justice for Collection.

**Question 2**

The Council does not refer unpaid infringement notice fees to private debt collection companies.

**Question 3**

As question 2 is no, not applicable.

**Question 4**

The Council does not use a third party to update individuals personal credit file history for unpaid infringements.

**Question 5 and 6**

As question 4 is no, not applicable.

**Question 7**

The Council allows individuals to come to come to a payment agreement, and the Council does not refuse the direct payment arrangements.

**Part Two**

**Question 1**

In the twelve-month ending 31 July 2021, there have been 6 unpaid infringement notices referred to the Ministry of Justice for formal collection.

**Question 2**

In the twelve-month ending 31 July 2021 there were no unpaid infringement notices referred to private debt collection or any other company or organisation that is not the Ministry of Justice for collection.

Thank you again for your email/letter. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Geoff Hamilton  
Chief Executive  
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA