

17 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2023-19

Thank you for your email of 17 April 2023 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

- *How many complaints has Council received in the last 5 years from members of the public about discarded animal carcasses in public spaces, e.g. rivers, parks?*
- *How the dumping of carcasses is managed by Council - is it managed under a bylaw, for instance?*
- *Has the Council investigated or prosecuted this activity in the last 5 years? And what were the outcomes of those investigations/prosecutions?*
- *Does the presence of animal carcasses in public spaces and near waterways presents any health issues to humans or dogs?*
- *What can people do if they see an animal carcass on public land?*
- *Does Council have a view on why people engage in the practice of discarding animal carcasses in public place?*
- *What advice or information would Council give someone who was thinking of dumping dead animals?*

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

My response to each of your requests is detailed below.

How many complaints has Council received in the last 5 years from members of the public about discarded animal carcasses in public spaces, e.g. rivers, parks?

In the last five years Council received five complaints from members of the public about discarded animal carcasses in public space.

How the dumping of carcasses is managed by Council - is it managed under a bylaw, for instance?

The dumping of carcasses is managed by logging it as a service request, then depending on where the carcass is, it will get allocated to the appropriate department to deal with, e.g. if on the road side

the request gets passed onto the roading department; if dumped on a part or reserve the request is allocated to the parks and reserve team.

Has the Council investigated or prosecuted this activity in the last 5 years? And what were the outcomes of those investigations/prosecutions?

No, the Council has not investigated or prosecuted an activity in the last five years.

Does the presence of animal carcasses in public spaces and near waterways presents any health issues to humans or dogs.

To avoid any health issues to humans or dogs, we respond immediately to the presence of animal carcasses in public spaces and near waterways.

What can people do if they see an animal carcass on public land?

Members of the public can either choose to call the Council directly on: 06 379 4030 or they can go to our website and log a service request on: <https://cdc.govt.nz/service-request/>

Does Council have a view on why people engage in the practice of discarding animal carcasses in public place?

As Council, we have no view on this.

What advice or information would Council give someone who was thinking of dumping dead animals?

Discarding animal carcasses is not an appropriate action to take for the reason that it could pose health issues to living humans or animals. In a circumstance where evidence is provided, Council will initiate prosecution.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

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

Yours sincerely



Kelly Vatselias
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