

29 June 2026

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

**Request for Official Information
LG26-0209 - Dog Enforcement**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 21 June 2026 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

1. **Number of times a Council dog enforcement (policing or patrol) activity has taken place in Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay in the past 12 months. By this I mean, an activity in which Council has attended the areas in person for the purpose of ensuring bylaws are being followed. What was the nature of these activities and what was the result?**
2. **Number of times a Council dog enforcement activity has taken place in Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay in the past 12 months to ensure pet fencing bylaws are being adhered to. Can Council explain please how it ensures dog owners comply with fencing rules as a part of this answer.**
3. **Number of warnings/tickets issued of any kind for dog offences in Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay. This to include failure to have recall in an off-leash area and failure to collect faeces or have the means to collect faeces.**
4. **Number of dogs uplifted or seized or from Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay in the past 12 months for roaming or other reasons.**
5. **Cumulative number of tickets / fines issued or court activities undertaken by the council with respect to the following dog offences in the Queenstown Lakes District as a whole for the past 5 years:**
 - a. **failure to have a dog on a leash**
 - b. **failure to have effective control of a dog either on or off leash**
 - c. **failure to collect dog waste/faeces**
 - d. **failure to have adequate fencing on a property with a dog**
 - e. **aggressive, biting or menacing dogs causing a safety issue.**

QLDC RESPONSE

In response to your request, the QLDC Animal Control Team was consulted.

Decision to release information

2. **Number of times a Council dog enforcement activity has taken place in Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay in the past 12 months to ensure pet fencing bylaws are being adhered to. Can Council explain please how it ensures dog owners comply with fencing rules as a part of this answer.**

During the past 12 months, Council's Animal Control Officers have undertaken 142 fencing compliance inspections in the areas identified in your request.

Council undertakes regular proactive inspections of properties to assess compliance with fencing requirements under [QLDC's Dog Control Policy 2020](#). These inspections form part of the Animal Control team's performance measures, with officers required to complete a specified number of fencing compliance checks each month.

In relation to the areas identified in your request, these inspections involve officers assessing whether fencing is adequate to securely contain dogs and meets the standard required to qualify for the reduced dog registration fee available under QLDC's Dog Control Policy 2020.

There is no requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996 for all dog owners to have a fenced property. However, where a property no longer meets the required fencing standard, Council removes the applicable registration fee reduction from the dog's registration record.

3. Number of warnings/tickets issued of any kind for dog offences in Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay. This to include failure to have recall in an off-leash area and failure to collect faeces or have the means to collect faeces.

Council has identified the following infringement issued within the areas identified in your request:

- **Failure to keep a dog under control:** 4 infringements.

Please note that while infringements are individually recorded and can be searched by offence type and location, warnings are linked to an individual animal's record rather than recorded as standalone events. As a result, Council is unable to readily identify or extract warnings issued within the requested locations without manually reviewing individual animal records. This would require substantial research and collation.

4. Number of dogs uplifted or seized or from Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay in the past 12 months for roaming or other reasons.

During the past 12 months, six dogs registered in the areas identified in your request have been impounded by Council.

- 5. Cumulative number of tickets / fines issued or court activities undertaken by the council with respect to the following dog offences in the Queenstown Lakes District as a whole for the past 5 years:**
- e. aggressive, biting or menacing dogs causing a safety issue.**

Council's Section 10A reports record enforcement activities undertaken under the Dog Control Act 1996, including infringements issued, prosecutions, complaints received, and actions relating to aggressive, menacing, dangerous, and wandering dogs. The reports therefore contain information relevant to parts of your request, particularly in relation to aggressive, biting, menacing, and other enforcement-related dog incidents.

The Section 10A reports for the relevant years are publicly available on Council's website and can be accessed here: [Section 10A Reports | Queenstown Lakes District Council](#)

Decision to refuse information

QLDC has good reason under sections 17(e) and 17(f) of the LGOIMA for refusing parts of the information requested. QLDC consider it is necessary to refuse parts of the requested information on the basis of the following grounds:

- Section 17(e) – that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.
- Section 17(f) - that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Section 17(e) of the LGOIMA provides that a local authority may refuse a request where the document alleged to contain the requested information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. This provision recognises that agencies are not required to create new information in order to respond to a request.

- 1. Number of times a Council dog enforcement (policing or patrol) activity has taken place in Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay in the past 12 months. By this I mean, an activity in which Council has attended the areas in person for the purpose of ensuring bylaws are being followed. What was the nature of these activities and what was the result?**

Reasonable steps have been taken to identify information within scope of your request, including consultation with Council's Animal Control team. However, no information has been identified that records the number of dog enforcement, policing, patrol, or proactive compliance activities undertaken in the areas identified in your request during the past 12 months for the purpose of ensuring compliance with dog control bylaws. Council does not maintain records in this manner and therefore does not hold information capable of answering your request.

- 5. Cumulative number of tickets / fines issued or court activities undertaken by the council with respect to the following dog offences in the Queenstown Lakes District as a whole for the past 5 years:**
 - a. failure to have a dog on a leash**
 - b. failure to have effective control of a dog either on or off leash**
 - c. failure to collect dog waste/faeces**
 - d. failure to have adequate fencing on a property with a dog**

Reasonable steps have been taken to identify information within scope of your request, including consultation with Council's Animal Control team. However, no information has been identified that records cumulative totals of tickets, fines, or court proceedings broken down by the specific offence categories requested.

While Council's Section 10A reports contain information on dog control and enforcement activity, they do not separately record or report cumulative figures for the following offence types:

- failure to have a dog on a leash;
- failure to have effective control of a dog on or off leash;
- failure to collect dog waste/faeces; and
- failure to have adequate fencing on a property containing a dog.

Accordingly, although the Section 10A reports provide an overview of Council's overall dog control and enforcement activity, they do not contain sufficient offence-specific detail to enable this request to be answered in full.

Accordingly, QLDC refuses these parts of your request under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA on the basis that the requested information is not held.

Section 17(f) of the LGOIMA provides that a local authority may refuse a request where the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. This provision recognises that, while information may be held by an agency, there are circumstances where identifying, locating, reviewing, and collating that information would require an unreasonable level of manual effort and a diversion of resources. Before relying on section 17(f), Council has considered whether fixing a charge under section 13 or extending the timeframe for responding under section 14 would enable the request to be met.

Reasonable steps have been taken to identify information within the scope of your request, including consultation with Council's Animal Control team.

3. Number of warnings/tickets issued of any kind for dog offences in Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm or Homestead Bay. This to include failure to have recall in an off-leash area and failure to collect faeces or have the means to collect faeces.

Council is able to search infringement notices by offence type and location. However, warnings are not recorded as standalone enforcement events or in a manner that enables them to be searched or reported by geographic location. Instead, warnings are recorded against individual animal records as part of each dog's compliance history.

Accordingly, Council is unable to generate a report identifying warnings issued within the areas identified in your request. To determine the information requested would require staff to manually review individual animal records to identify whether a warning was issued, determine the nature of the warning, assess whether it related to one of the specified offence types, and confirm whether the incident occurred within one of the nominated locations. This process would need to be repeated across all potentially relevant records for the requested period.

Council considers that undertaking this manual review would require substantial collation and research and would involve an unreasonable diversion of staff resources from core operational responsibilities.

Council has considered whether fixing a charge under section 13 of the LGOIMA or extending the timeframe for responding under section 14 would enable the request to be met. However, neither option would remove the need for the extensive manual review required to identify and collate the relevant information. Even with further refinement through consultation, the underlying structure of the records means the requested dataset cannot be extracted in a form that would produce a complete or reliable response without the same level of manual assessment. Council therefore considers that neither charging nor extending the timeframe would enable the request to be met.

Accordingly, QLDC refuses this part of your request under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. QLDC trusts that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Right to review the above decision

You have the right to request an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA. Further information is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with QLDC, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Director Democracy Services).

Proactive release of LGOIMA responses

QLDC proactively publishes responses to requests made under the LGOIMA where the information is considered to be of wider public interest. As such, please be aware that a response to your request may be published on the [Council's website](#) or otherwise made publicly available. Where this occurs, any personal information will be redacted in accordance with the [Privacy Act 2020](#) and applicable withholding grounds, to ensure individuals' privacy is protected.

Kind regards,



Democracy Services Team
Corporate Services | Queenstown Lakes District Council
P: +64 3 441 0499
E: informationrequest@qldc.govt.nz