

10 December 2025

[REDACTED]
Sent via email to [REDACTED]

**Request for Official Information
LG25-0348 - Animal Registration Data**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 5 December 2025 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

- **Would it be possible to access current figures on the number of registered dogs in the district, and if available, any estimates on the local cat population or other companion animals? I understand cats may not require registration, but any data or references the council can provide would be greatly appreciated.**

QLDC RESPONSE

In response to your request, we consulted with both the QLDC Regulatory Team and the QLDC Strategy and Policy Team.

Partial release of information

Information on registered dog numbers is available in the Section 10A reports, which include figures spanning several years. These reports can be accessed here: [Section 10A Reports | Queenstown Lakes District Council](#)

Partial refusal of information

We have good reason under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA for refusing part of the information requested. We consider it is necessary to refuse 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(e) of the LGOIMA provides that a local authority may refuse a request where the information sought does not exist or cannot be located despite reasonable efforts. This provision ensures that a refusal reflects the genuine absence of information, rather than any failure to locate or maintain it.

After consulting with the QLDC Regulatory Team and undertaking reasonable searches of our records, Council has confirmed that we do not hold any data on the local cat population or other companion

animals. Cats are not required to be registered in this district, and although many are microchipped or desexed, registration with [Companion Animals New Zealand](#) is voluntary and involves an additional cost. As a result, there is currently no consistent or robust method for collecting or aggregating reliable data on cat numbers at a local level, and QLDC is not the primary data holder. National estimates do exist through the annual Companion Animals New Zealand survey, which may assist you; their datasets are publicly available online [here](#).

Because this information is not held by Council, this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA. While we cannot create or provide information that does not exist within our records, we remain committed to assisting where possible. Accordingly, we have directed you to the available dog registration figures included in the Section 10A reports.

Right to review the above decision

Note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

We trust that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Democracy Services Team
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