

16 February 2026

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Request for Official Information LG26-0027 - Bylaws and Enforcement Practices

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 25 January 2026 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

I write to formally escalate my complaint regarding the discriminatory impact and enforcement of Queenstown Lakes District Council bylaws — including the Freedom Camping and related public-place enforcement regimes — on people experiencing homelessness within the district.

- 1. How the Council ensures its bylaws and enforcement practices comply with the Human Rights Act 1993 and the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.**
- 2. What safeguards are in place to prevent indirect discrimination against people experiencing homelessness.**
- 3. What lawful and realistic alternatives are available to individuals who have no access to accommodation.**
- 4. Whether enforcement officers are required to assess homelessness and refer individuals to appropriate support services prior to issuing infringement notices.**
- 5. Whether the Council has undertaken any NZBORA [New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990] or human-rights consistency analysis in relation to these bylaws, and if so, when.**
- 6. What steps the Council intends to take to address the issues raised in this complaint.**

Item 6 of your request is not a request for official information under the LGOIMA and will therefore not be responded to.

On 12 February 2026, QLDC emailed you to advise that item 3 of your request had been transferred to the Ministry of Social Development, in accordance with section 12 of the LGOIMA.

QLDC RESPONSE

In response to your request, we consulted with the QLDC Community Partnerships Team.

Decision to release information

- 1. How the Council ensures its bylaws and enforcement practices comply with the Human Rights Act 1993 and the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.**

QLDC considers all relevant legal requirements when developing bylaws and enforcement policies.

2. What safeguards are in place to prevent indirect discrimination against people experiencing homelessness.

QLDC does not currently have a standalone policy specifically addressing homelessness; however, relevant matters are considered within broader housing and community wellbeing work programmes, which are ongoing.

Council has undertaken significant policy work in relation to housing provision and affordability, including through the Joint Housing Action Plan. The housing challenges in the district are well documented, and Council continues to work collaboratively with partners to respond to increasing demand for accommodation as the district grows.

For individuals seeking support with accommodation, information about available services and assistance can be found on Council's [Manaaki webpage](#).

People living in vehicles may stay at designated camping areas. Information about available campgrounds and facilities is available on Council's [Responsible Camping webpage](#) and through the [CamperMate website](#) or app.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is not intended to be applied to individuals experiencing homelessness. Where a person who is homeless receives a freedom camping infringement, they may [request a waiver](#). Waiver requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. Whether enforcement officers are required to assess homelessness and refer individuals to appropriate support services prior to issuing infringement notices.

There is no specific requirement to do so. However, please refer to the information provided in the links included with QLDC's response. For example, a waiver system is available in circumstances relating to homelessness.

5. Whether the Council has undertaken any NZBORA [New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990] or human-rights consistency analysis in relation to these bylaws, and if so, when.

The [Local Government Act 2020](#) and the [Freedom Camping Act 2011](#) require councils to consider [New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990](#) (NZBORA) implications when making bylaws. NZBORA considerations form part of the Council's decision-making when it considers and adopts recommendations relating to bylaws.

Additional information

The housing challenges in our district are well documented, and a range of long-term initiatives are underway to address them. However, as more people choose to visit and live in the Queenstown Lakes area, demand continues to increase on an already stretched housing supply. QLDC is responding to this through the [Joint Housing Action Plan](#). Further information is available [here](#) on the work being undertaken in partnership with central government, the [Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust](#), Kāi Tahu, and the local community.

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 Rebecca.Pitts@qldc.govt.nz (Engagement and Communications Manager).

We trust that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

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