

15 July 2026

[REDACTED]

C/- [REDACTED]

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

**Request for Official Information
LG26-0216 - Dogs in the Albert Town and Hāwea area**

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 23 June 2026 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

I request all relevant information held by the Council and or Dog Control for the period 1 January 2024 and 1 January 2026 addressing the following:

1. The number of husky or malamute dogs registered in the Albert Town and Hāwea area;
2. The number of dog attacks or incidents reported in the Albert Town and Hāwea area;
3. The number and breeds of dogs registered to [REDACTED]; and
4. Any incident reports relating to a [REDACTED] dog named [REDACTED], presumably registered to [REDACTED], registered owner [REDACTED].

QLDC RESPONSE

In response to your request, the QLDC Regulatory Support Team was consulted.

Decision to release information

1. The number of husky or malamute dogs registered in the Albert Town and Hāwea area;

The number of registered dogs of the specified breeds in the Albert Town and Hāwea area is as follows:

- Malamutes: 5 registered dogs
- Huskies: 6 registered dogs

In total, there are 11 registered Husky or Malamute dogs in the Albert Town and Hāwea area.

2. The number of dog attacks or incidents reported in the Albert Town and Hāwea area;

The number of reported dog attacks or incidents in the Albert Town and Hāwea area over the past 12 months (15 July 2025 to 15 July 2026) is as follows:

- Albert Town: 3 reported incidents
- Hāwea area: 7 reported incidents

In total, there were 10 reported dog attacks or incidents in the Albert Town and Hāwea area during this period.

Decision to withhold information

3. The number and breeds of dogs registered to [REDACTED]; and
4. Any incident reports relating to a [REDACTED] dog named [REDACTED], presumably registered to [REDACTED], registered owner [REDACTED].

QLDC has good reason under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA for withholding the information requested in items 3 and 4 of your request. QLDC consider it is necessary to withhold the requested information on the basis of the following grounds:

- Section 7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA is intended to protect the privacy of individuals by allowing information to be withheld where its release would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information or could cause harm or distress. This provision seeks to balance the public's right to access official information with the need to respect individual privacy and prevent the misuse of personal information.

In this instance, the information is being withheld because it relates to identifiable natural persons. The [Privacy Act 2020](#) recognises individuals' rights in relation to the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal information. In addition, section 35 of the [Dog Control Act 1996](#) restricts the disclosure of information from the dog register that identifies dog owners, reinforcing the importance Parliament has placed on protecting this type of personal information. Releasing the requested information would therefore constitute an unreasonable intrusion into the personal affairs of the individuals concerned.

QLDC has also considered whether there is any public interest in the release of the information that outweighs the need to withhold it. In this case, the need to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned outweighs any public interest in disclosure. Accordingly, the decision to withhold the information is justified and consistent with the provisions of both the LGOIMA and the Privacy Act.

Public interest considerations

In assessing whether to withhold information, QLDC carefully evaluates the public interest—particularly whether disclosure would enhance transparency, accountability, or informed public engagement. This assessment includes weighing those benefits against the potential harm that could result from releasing the information.

QLDC recognises the public interest in promoting transparency and accountability of local authority members and officials, as well as the broader interest in good governance. We are committed to releasing information wherever possible. However, in this instance, QLDC considers that the need to protect the privacy of individuals, including deceased persons. Release of the information could reasonably be expected to intrude on personal privacy and may cause harm or distress.

Therefore, QLDC has determined that section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA applies. In this case, no overriding public interest has been identified that would justify its release.

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,

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