



Ref: s.7(2)(a) -
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Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street
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10 September 2021

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s.7(2)(a) - protect the privacy
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Dear s.7(2)
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OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST RE UNPAID INFRINGEMENT FEES

I refer to your official information request dated 25 August 2021 relating to the collection of unpaid infringement fees.

The information you requested is set out below in **bold type** against each of the original questions.

Part One:

1. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to the Ministry of Justice for collection? **Yes.**
2. Does your council refer unpaid infringement notice fees to private debt collection companies for collection? **No.**
3. If yes to question number 2 above, what legislation formally allows you to do this? **Not applicable.**
4. Does your council either yourself or using a third party update individuals personal credit file history with regards to unpaid infringements? **No.**
5. If yes to number 4, do you use the standard Ministry of Justice "fines" process which is automatically removed from an individuals personal credit file upon payment of the fines, or do you use a private third party credit reporting agency or debt collection company, which remains on a individuals personal credit file for 5 years from the date of listing? **Not applicable.**
6. With regards to number 5 above, do you authorise credit reporting agencies and or debt collection companies to remove credit defaults from individuals personal credit files following the payment of infringement notices or do you persist they remain for the maximum time allowable by privacy law? **Not applicable.**
7. Do you allow individuals to come to a payment arrangement prior to referring unpaid infringement notices to any of the above sources, or similar to some government

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agencies (Eg: Nz Police) do you refuse to allow direct payment arrangements? **Yes, for infringement amounts over \$150.**

Part Two:

1. In the twelve month ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to the Ministry of Justice for formal collection? **2111.**
2. In the twelve months ending 31/07/2021 how many unpaid infringement notices did you refer to private debt collection (any other company or organisation that is not the Ministry of Justice) for collection? **0.**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to Clare Barton, Group Manager – Environmental Management.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB', is positioned above the typed name of Jane Budge.

Jane Budge

Principal Advisor – Environmental Management