

**From:** [Official Information](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Official Information](#)  
**Subject:** Final response - LGOIMA 447982 [REDACTED] - Dog Control Act vs Bylaw  
**Date:** Monday, 3 February 2025 4:03:07 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)

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Kia ora,

We refer to your information request below. Hamilton City Council provides the following response.

Your request:

Why are the citizens of Hamilton still prosecuted under the national Dog Control Act 1996, as opposed to the Bylaws Hamilton interpreted and set for itself in 2015?

Our response:

New Zealand law consists of national legislation which is enacted by Parliament and local government has authority to enact bylaws that are enforceable in their jurisdiction / City / Area.

People that own Dog are required to comply with both the [Hamilton Dog Control Bylaw 2015](#) and the [Dog Control Act 1996](#) as the Act is a national standard for all dog owners across New Zealand, whereas the bylaw are certain restrictions that Hamilton City Council can make within their jurisdiction / city / area. Both the Act and the Bylaw are enforceable by Hamilton City Council.

Under the Dog Control Act 1996 [section 20 - Dog Control Bylaws](#), it sets out what Councils can add further rules to such as s20(1)(b) - requiring dogs, other than working dogs, to be controlled on a leash in specified public places, or in public places in specified areas or parts of the district. Minogue Park in Forest Lake is an example where you are allowed to have your dog off lease and leashed dogs are welcomed in most of the Hamilton town belt and on city streets.

We have further information relating to dog exercise areas here: [Dog exercise areas, education and events | Hamilton City Council](#)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngaa mihi  
Keeley Faulkner  
Official Information Advisor & Legal Support Officer  
Legal services  
Governance & Assurance Team | Partnerships, communication & Maaori  
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I support flexibility at work. While it suits me to send this email now, I don't expect a response outside of your own working hours.

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2024 8:44 AM

**To:** [info@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hcc.govt.nz)

**Subject:** DCA 1996 v HCC 2015

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HCC,



Why are the citizens of Hamilton still prosecuted under the national Dog Control Act 1996, as opposed to the Bylaws Hamilton interpreted and set for itself in 2015?

Regards, [REDACTED]

DDI: 07 838 6699 | Email: [info@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hcc.govt.nz)



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