



17 September 2019

Jonathan Marshall
fyi-request-11128-8afb042f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Marshall

Your Departmental official information request, reference OIA19/20-0206

I note your email of 3 September 2019 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I believe that DIA compiles the National Dog Database (the best database, surely).

- 1. Does the database contain the names of dogs in addition to location information and breed?*
- 2. If so, can I please be given summary information therein, such as the number of dogs of each name by breed in each location.*
 - Names may be restricted to the top 10 in each location, or top 100 overall if this is easier.*
 - The location may be anything that is convenient and provides adequate privacy to the dogs (and owners). e.g. census area unit or perhaps territorial authority if CAU is too fine.*
- 3. Please provide said information, as available, in a machine readable format (CSV, Excel etc)."*

Under section 35A of the Dog Control Act, the Department is only able to disclose information from the National Dog Database to a territorial authority.

Therefore, the Department is refusing your request under section 18(c)(i) of the Act. This section provides that we can refuse a request as making the information available would be contrary to the provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Dog Control Act).

The Department does receive statistical information about dog registrations, by breed, from territorial authorities. These statistics are publicly available on www.localcouncils.govt.nz, by clicking on *Profiles, Statistical Overview*, then selecting *Dog Control Statistics*. The statistics include a downloadable dataset of all registered dogs in New Zealand by location and breed.

The information publicly available does not include information related to dog names. Such information would be held by councils as part of their dog registration work.

If you wish to obtain information about dog names by breed, you can contact councils individually and make a request for that information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Balakrishnan', with a horizontal line above the signature.

Anita Balakrishnan
Director Operational Services