

Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta



MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister for Māori Development

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for the Environment

Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing)

Associate Minister for Trade and Export Growth

28 September 2020

Mary Phillips

fyi-request-13616-81f5dc83@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mary

Thank you for your email of 30 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

When you introduced the requirement of dogs to be micro chipped who did you intend would decide which category the owner's dog best fits i.e. Urban, Rural or working. Is it the owner or the Local Body?

Local authorities are responsible for the registration of dogs, including classifying the type of dog. In most instances, the owner identifies which category they believe their dog fits, and this is then assessed by the council. The council may request further evidence if required.

You may be interested to know that under the Dog Control Act 1996, dogs are classified as either domestic or working. The only dogs exempt from microchipping are working dogs that are "kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock".

If you have any further questions about the registration or microchipping of dogs, I suggest you contact your local council.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of my 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.govt.nz.

Thank you again for writing.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. C. Mahuta'.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Local Government