

25 May 2016

File ref: IRO-5258

Alex Harris  
(via FYI website [www.fyi.org.nz](http://www.fyi.org.nz))

Dear Mr Harris

**Request for information relating to video or audio surveillance devices for dog-control purposes on 16 March 2016.**

Thank you for your request dated 16 March 2016 seeking information about the use of video or audio surveillance devices for dog-control purposes. As per Chris Brown's email of 10 May 2016, unfortunately we never received your request, hence our delayed response.

By way of clarification, I can advise Wellington City Council contracts Hutt City Council to perform dog control activities in and around Wellington City. We can confirm that Hutt City Council is intending to roll out body worn cameras in fulfilment of that role from 1 June 2016. Please find responses to your specific questions as supplied by Hutt City Council below:

**1. "Whether the council uses video or audio surveillance devices for dog-control purposes"**

Wellington Animal Control Officers will be equipped with audio visual body worn cameras commencing on or about 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. The purpose of the cameras is to minimise risk of personal harm to staff, minimise the chance of harm to a member of the public, and assist staff in the lawful discharge of their duties.

**2. "If so, a copy of any applicable policy covering such surveillance. If there is no formal policy, I would like to know the evidential bar required for such surveillance to begin, who approves or can approve it, whether consent is sought from targets or affected property owners, who carries it out and the methods used"**

Please see enclosed a copy of Hutt City Council's "wearable video cameras" policy. Note the policy is the property of Hutt City Council.

The cameras may be activated to record images and sound in the event officers experience verbal abuse and or threatening behaviour or worse. Officers who have been trained to carry body worn cameras can deploy them in accordance with the policy.

Officers carrying a camera must advise a subject their behaviour may be recorded. Where an officer is not able to give a subject advice that they may be recorded in the event of an immediate threat or escalation of abusive or threatening behaviour, the officer must advise the subject their behaviour is being recorded, provided it is at the time possible to do so. The policy allows an exception in the event an officer is confronted with an event such as witness to an

assault on a member of the public, catastrophic event or a person or vehicle leaving the scene of a crime.

3. ***“If video or audio surveillance is used, I would like to know the number of times each has been used in the last year, the number of occasions it was done without consent, and the number of occasions consent was sought but not granted”***

Wellington Animal Control Officers will only be be equipped with audio visual body worn cameras commencing on or about 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016, as such there has been no use of body-worn cameras in the Wellington City dog control area in the past year.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Pearson-Coats

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