

28 January 2021

Alan Thompson  
[fyi-request-17881-127357de@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17881-127357de@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Alan

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987**

We refer to your official information request dated 8 December 2021, requesting the following information about the flooding of the Hutt River on 6 December 2021:

- 1. From what time on the 6 December was the Council monitoring the rising river levels and flow with respect to the impending danger and developing situation?*
- 2. What currently are the trigger points and locations (with respect to the river height and/or flow) that the Standard Operating Procedures require that the river car park be closed?*
- 3. Similarly, what currently are the trigger points that determine:  
when car owners and/or other registered parties receive advice (e.g. Txt) warning of the danger?  
- when the Council will engage a tow firm to remove vehicles threatened by rising Hutt River waters?*
- 4. Were the above trigger points reached and the standard procedures enacted?*

The information you have requested is provided below.

**From what time on the 6 December was the Council monitoring the rising river levels and flow with respect to the impending danger and developing situation?**

The river level started being monitored on 5 December and was continued on 6 December.

**What currently are the trigger points and locations (with respect to the river height and/or flow) that the Standard Operating Procedures require that the river car park be closed?**

Trigger points exist across the length of the Hutt River however the key level is 3 metres. At 3 metres, the Council, contractors and volunteers begin a series of actions and transition from monitoring to response.

**What currently are the trigger points that determine when car owners and/or other registered parties receive advice (e.g. TxT) of the danger? When does the Council engage a tow firm to remove vehicles threatened by rising Hutt River waters?**

Car owners who have signed up for a text alert are notified when the Hutt River reaches the 3 metre level.

Contractors and towing vehicles are notified when the Metservice indicates in the 48-hour forecast that heavy rain is predicted. They deploy to forward locations when the Hutt River reaches 2 metres and is either rising or additional rain is predicted.

**Were the above trigger points reached and the standard procedures enacted?**

Yes, the necessary trigger points were reached, and the standard procedures enacted.

I trust this information is useful to you.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales  
Senior Advisor, Information Management and Privacy  
**Hutt City Council**