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LGOIMA

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Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Penny Kirk – Ministry of Social Development
Information requested:	Building and Resource Consent information for the past 5 years
Response by:	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

15 August

Penny Kirk
Ministry of Social Development

Via Email: penny.kirk017@msd.govt.nz

Dear Penny

Official information request for building and resource consent information for the past 5 years

I refer to your official information request dated 02 August 2023 for building and resource consent information for the past 5 years.

You have asked for the following information:

Resource Consents

1. How many Resource Consents are processed annually over the last five years?

Year	Consent Numbers
03 August 2018 – 02 August 2019	103
03 August 2019 – 02 August 2020	107
03 August 2020 – 02 August 2021	114
03 August 2021 – 02 August 2022	169
03 August 2022 – 02 August 2023	137

2. What is the average timeframe from original submission to completion for a Resource Consent application to be processed?

The average working day is 10 – 20, excluding hold for further information request or notification.

3. What challenges are Council facing in the smooth processing of Resource Consents? (i.e. what could submitters be doing to make it easier to process, or are there other barriers?)

- Quality of information provided by applicants. For example, thorough planning assessments in respect to the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan and assessment of environmental effects.
- Transparency of intentions, for example, confirmation of the extent of an activity inclusive of all components such as vehicle movements, signage, infrastructure intentions etc. Activities are being undertaken in part or in full prior to permissions being received, resulting in the requirement for remedial works, changes in plans and reassessment under the relevant legislation.

Building Consents

4. How many Building Consents are processed annually over the last 5 years?

Year 01Jan – 31Dec	Processed	Issued
2018	275	226
2019	285	243
2020	235	217
2021	279	231
2022	282	255
2023 – to date	178	132

5. What is the average timeframe from original submission to completion for a Building Consent application to be processed?

Year 01Jan – 31Dec	Average days
2018	13.12
2019	13.07
2020	6.98
2021	11.84
2022	13.73
2023 – to date	10.38

6. What challenges are Council facing in the smooth processing of Building Consents? (i.e. what could submitters be doing to make it easier to process, or are there other barriers?)

- The quality of applications coming through are often incomplete. Even trained professional designers/architects have multiple RFIs due to lack of relevant information, not having up-to-date building code compliance pathways, and very basic information such as owner details and site/ground reports are incorrect or missing entirely. Owner applications done by non-professionals are similar, with details and information missing.
- The online consenting system is overwhelming for first-time users with little experience. Help is available with tutorials online, some prefer not to watch these and struggle as a consequence.

7. Is there any other information or data that you think is relevant to building and resource consents and increasing the housing supply across Te Tai o Poutini?

Yes – the number of consents for new dwellings is much smaller than the number of building consents issued.

Year 01Jan – 31Dec	Processed	Issued
2018	55	39
2019	74	59
2020	69	67
2021	100	89
2022	102	95
2023 – to date	51	45

- Over this time only 3 consents for a MBIE Multiproof dwellings have been issued.
- Over this time only 6 consents for residential multi-unit (more than two dwellings) have been issued.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.

The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,



Simon Bastion | Chief Executive

SB/MB