

21 November 2023

██████████
Sent via email to ██████████

Dear ████████,

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (**QLDC**). On 8 November 2023 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (**LGOIMA**):

- Can you please supply any data you would hold on fires or damages caused by batteries in vaping devices in your local area over the past 5 years, broken down annually.

QLDC response

Please see our response below.

Please see a photo of the vape pod that caught fire at the Materials Recovery facilities.



Lithium batteries are a high risk to waste facilities. We are seeing a large number of vape pods coming through the MRF sort line. Here's an example



Please see the below link for the data (colour coded to the different facilities).

- [Fire data](#)

Council trusts this response satisfactorily answers your request

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which is partially obscured by a black redaction box below it.

Official Information Advisor

YEARS			
2018		Facility	Causes
14/07/2018	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Cause identified as a battery.
31/10/2018	Fire	Landfill	Material deposited from bin. Suspected battery
2019			
11/09/2019	Fire	QLDC Queenstown RTS	Pit fire. Suspected cigarette butts
16/09/2019	Fire	QLDC MRF	Load Fire. Suspected battery
31/10/2019	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Suspected battery
7/11/2019	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Suspected battery
3/12/2019	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Suspected battery
12/11/2019	Fire	QLDC MRF	Sort line. Battery exploded
2020			
22/01/2020	Fire	QLDC Queenstown RTS	Loader. Object fell on exhaust and ignited
9/06/2020	Fire	QLDC Queenstown RTS	Load fire. Cause unidentified
21/10/2020	Fire	QLDC Queenstown RTS	Hook bin fire. Cause identified as incorrect procedure followed while completing hot works.
28/10/2020	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Suspected battery.
29/12/2020	Fire	QLDC MRF	Product in baler fire. (battery (cell phone)
2021			
5/08/2021	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Suspected battery in load from hook bin received from RTS.
11/08/2021	Fire	QLDC refuse	Collection Vehicle fire. Load caught fire
2022			
21/02/2022	Fire	QLDC Wanaka RTS	Pit fire. Battery (gaming controller)
22/02/2022	Fire	Landfill	Below surface fire. Suspected battery
4/05/2022	Fire	QLDC Wanaka RTS	Load fire. Hot ashes
11/05/2022	Fire	Landfill	Below surface fire. Suspected battery
18/08/2022	Fire	Landfill	Below surface fire. Suspected battery
19/10/2022	Fire	QLDC Wanaka RTS	Load fire. Battery
2023			
16/03/2023	Fire	Public litter bin	Suspected cigarette butt
5/07/2023	Fire	QLDC Glass	Collection Vehicle fire. Autoburn fault
5/07/2023	Fire	QLDC Queenstown RTS	Pit fire batteries
28/09/2023	Fire	QLDC MRF	Load fire. Battery (vape pod)
13/10/2023	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Suspected battery
13/10/2023	Fire	Landfill	Surface fire. Suspected battery (e-scooter)