

19 February 2025

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Kia ora ██████████

Official information Request: Building consents – sign off fraud

I am writing to you in response to your request received 17 February 2025 for the following information:

To provide some background, it will soon be a year since a man called Jonathan Hall was jailed for building consent sign-off frauds: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/350274744/jail-engineer-forger-behind-largest-scale-fraud-professional>

We're aware his offending spanned councils up and down the country, and we thought enough time had passed since the frauds were detected to enable the various authorities to have a pretty good handle on how much it cost to rectify.

- *Can you tell me how much SWDC has had to spend to rectify issues from Hall's offending?*
- *Can you tell me how many Building Consents were affected by Hall's offending?*

We have assessed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). I have received information to provide the following response:

1. There has been no money spent on rectifying any issues, the only money spent has been on the court case.
2. In South Wairarapa there were 8 building consents affected by Hall's offending.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. If this request is selected it will be published at <https://swdc.govt.nz/lgoima-proactive-release/>, with your personal information removed.

You have a right to request a review by the Ombudsman on this response. Further information about this process can be found on <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint> or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Gardner', with a small dot at the end.

Paul Gardner
General Manager, Corporate Services