

Representation Review

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL - 2024





BACKGROUND

The Local Electoral Act requires all local authorities to review their representation arrangements at least once every six years. This process is called the Representation Review. The representation arrangements decided on during this process will be used for the 2025 local government elections.

One of the reasons to review every six years is that over time, communities change.

Sometimes in size, but also in terms of their makeup - rural, urban, industries, small or big town, city etc. The review includes wards (electoral area), number of councillors and community boards.

The review does not formally include the council's own committees (such as ward committees), but the outcome does impact on where the Council decides to have committees.

The Hurunui district's three wards still fit the population to councillor formula set out in the legislation and Hurunui has no need to make any changes. However, the Council is required to undertake a review regardless.

CURRENT SITUATION

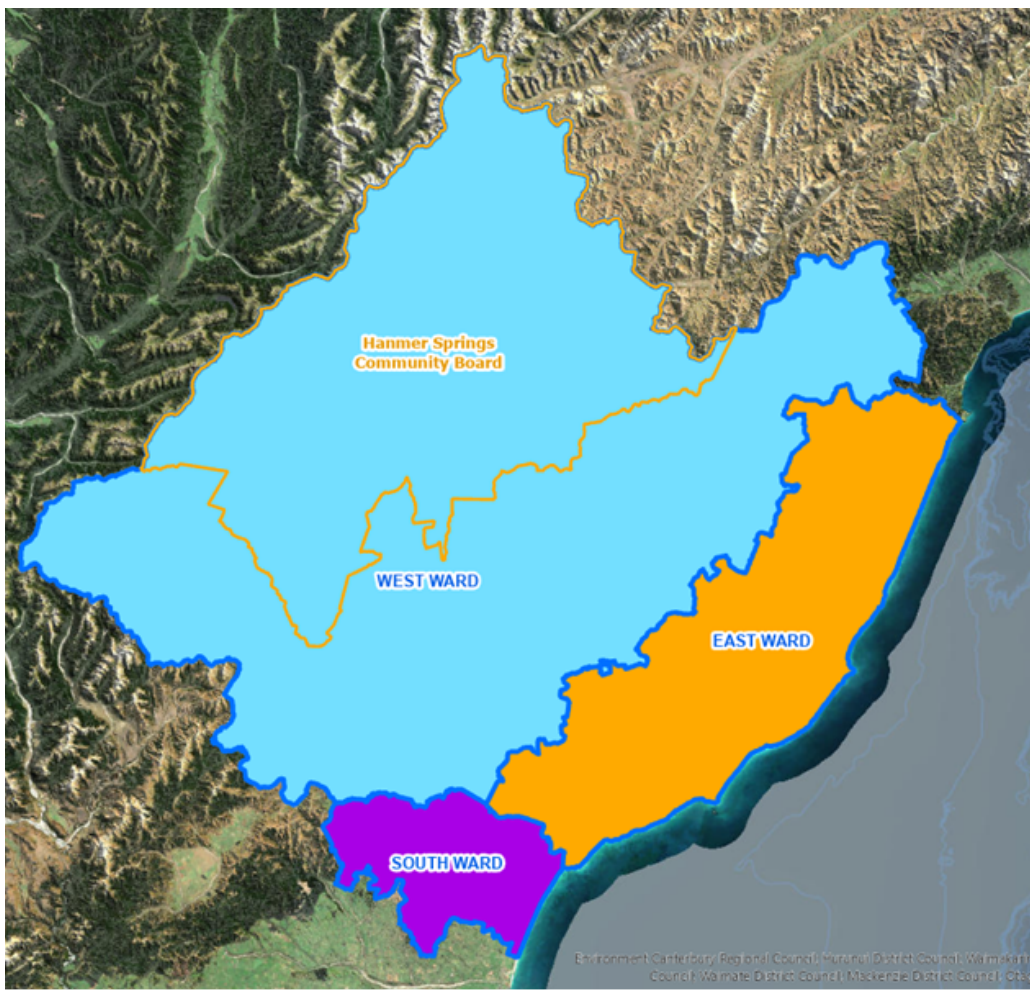
The current representation model has been in place since the 2019 local government election.

The last representation review was completed in 2018 and resulted in a change from five wards, the Mayor, and nine councillors, to the three wards, the Mayor, and 10 councillor model currently in place.

This three ward model appears to still be fit for purpose and Council are reluctant to look at changing the wards or communities of interest. They have identified, however, that the makeup of the South Ward is changing and as such would benefit from an elected Community Board whose role would be to look at the South Ward in a strategic and all-encompassing way.

Current Model

- **Three wards** - West, East and South.
- **10 Councillors** elected by wards – four from West, two from East, and four from South.
- **One Mayor** elected at large.
- **One Community Board** – Hanmer Springs with five elected board members and one appointed councillor from the West Ward.
- **Five Ward/Community Committees** – South Ward, Amuri Community, Hurunui Community, Cheviot Community and Glenmark Community.



REPRESENTATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

The Council needs to review its electoral arrangements in respect to:

- the number of elected members;
- whether those members are to be elected at large, or by ward, or by a combination of both;
- ward boundaries, ward names and the number of elected members for each ward; and
- whether there should be community board(s) and if so, the nature and structure of the community board(s).

The results of the representation review undertaken by the Council this year will be relevant for the next local government triennial elections which are to be held on 11 October 2025.

Representation reviews are to be undertaken in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Electoral Act 2001.

A challenging aspect of this legislation is the requirement for there to be an equitable population ratio per councillor. This rule is often referred to as the “plus or minus 10% rule”.

+/- 10% rule

Council must ensure that the population of each ward, divided by the number of members to be elected by that ward, produces a figure no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district divided by the total number of elected members (excluding the mayor).

The population per councillor ratio for Hurunui still complies with the Local Electoral Act for all of the Wards. The Hurunui district’s population is estimated at 13,800, based off StatsNZ estimations from the 2018 census. The 2023 census data was not available at the time of this review.

With 10 councillors, the number of residents per councillor must not exceed (plus or minus) 10% of 1,380. Therefore, the range must fit between 1,242 and 1,518 residents per councillor.

Guidelines

The Local Government Commission provides guidelines to assist councils with their reviews and to help them understand the statutory criteria. The key areas of review are:

1. Identify communities of interest.
2. Determine effective representation for identified communities of interest.
3. Consider fairness of representation for electors of the electoral subdivisions.
4. Community Board Reviews.



COUNCIL'S REVIEW PROCESS

The Council established a working group of four councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and the Governance Team Leader to work through the Local Government Commission Guidelines and consider any alternative options to bring back to the Council for consideration.

Working Group

The Working Group met four times and carefully considered:

- Electoral System
- Māori Wards
- Population statistics
- Communities of interest
- Community Boards
- Options
- Remuneration
- Consultation methods and timelines
- Local matters and perspectives

Council workshop and meetings

The Council held a workshop at the beginning of the process and received regular reports with updates and recommendations from the working group. A summary is provided below:

Workshop 1 (6 June 2023) – Introduction session on the Representation Review Process.

Council meeting (25 July 2023)

The Council appointed a working group to progress the representation review.

Council meeting (29 August 2023)

The Council formally supported retaining the currently used First Past the Post voting method for the 2025 local government elections.

Council meeting (25 September 2023)

The Council decided against forming a Māori Ward/Constituency for the 2025 local body elections but will continue to review options for a Māori Ward/Constituency in the future. This was supported by local rūnanga.

Council meeting (30 January 2024)

The Council received a discussion paper asking for feedback on four options to help guide the Initial proposal for the Representation Review.

Council Meeting (12 March 2024)

Council received and approved the initial proposal.



COMMUNITY BOARDS

Council are required to consider as a part of this review if community boards are appropriate to provide fair and effective representation for individuals and communities in its district.

What is a Community Board?

Community Boards are unincorporated bodies which are neither local authorities nor committees. They give a voice to specific communities within a Council area and act as representatives, advocates and connectors of those communities.

They are expected to create community plans feeding in local issues, and they need to advocate for the local voice.

They can make submissions on Council policies and decisions, and are an important part of providing information from Council back to the community.

How is this different from the Community Committees?

Currently Council has five Community Committees that function to manage community facilities, local reserves, and are a community liaison. They cannot submit on council policies or decisions but are often consulted prior to these decisions being made.

Membership is made up of representatives from local groups and independent positions. It is an unpaid position.

Community Boards are elected by the community alongside the local body elections.

Our committees have similar delegations to our Community Boards.

What about the South Ward?

When considering the formation of a South Ward Community Board the Council were required to consider the following:

- Is the South Ward a significantly distinct community of interest to merit a Board?
- Is it cost effective?
- Will a Board enhance effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the local governance of the South Ward?
- Will it enhance and support the local economy?

A South Ward Community Board would replace the current South Ward Community Committee.

REMUNERATION

The Remuneration Authority determines as a 'pool' the total amount the Council must pay its elected members. This is calculated based primarily on population and the size of the district, amongst other factors. It is not based on the number of councillors a district has.

Within this Remuneration Pool, the Authority informs each council how much it should pay the Mayor, the Community Boards and a minimum salary for councillors. The Council then decides how the remainder is split amongst themselves depending on responsibilities.

The cost of the Council remuneration is paid from District Rates. Community Boards are paid from targeted rates received from the community that they serve.



THE INITIAL PROPOSAL

The Hurunui District Council are proposing the following representation structure:

Three (3) Wards *(no changes)*

- West Ward
- East Ward
- South Ward

Ten (10) Councillors *(no changes)*

- Four (4) in the West Ward
- Two (2) in the East Ward
- Four (4) in the South Ward

One (1) Mayor *(no changes)*

- Elected at large

Two (2) Community Boards:

One (1) in Hanmer Springs *(no changes)*

- Covering the Hanmer Springs rating area, consisting of five (5) elected members and one (1) councillor appointed from the West Ward.

One (1) in South Ward *(New)*

- Covering the South Ward area, consisting of five (5) elected members and four (4) councillors appointed from the South Ward.
- Two subdivisions are formed within the Ward:
 - Amberley Subdivision (Amberley Township area)
 - Kowai Subdivision (Rest of the Ward).
- Two (2) Board members will be elected from the Amberley Subdivision and three (3) from the Kowai Subdivision.

As the only proposed change to the current structure is the addition of a South Ward Community Board, the population to councillor ratio still complies with the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Table 1: Population /Councillor ratio

Ward Name	Population	Councillor Numbers	Population per Councillor	Complies With Act	% Difference from Quota
West	5,450	4	1,363	Yes	-1.27
East	2,670	2	1,335	Yes	-3.26
South	5,680	4	1,420	Yes	2.90
Total	13,800	10	1,380		

SOUTH WARD COMMUNITY BOARD

The Council proposes that the formation of a South Ward Community Board would promote and enhance effective local governance across the South Ward which they consider a significantly distinct community of interest.

The South Ward is rapidly growing and more work needs to be undertaken to progress and represent the Ward in a strategic and forward thinking way.

How much does it cost?

The cost of a Community Board is determined by the Remuneration Authority and they have estimated that the annual payment to Board Members would be \$36,078 split into:

- Chairperson \$12,026
- Board Members \$6,013

This would be approximately \$20 per South Ward ratepayer per year.

Councillors are not paid to be appointed members of a Community Board.

HANMER SPRINGS COMMUNITY BOARD

The Hanmer Springs Community Board covers the entire Hanmer Springs rating area as outlined on Map 1.

This Board has been in place for over 30 years and the Council believe it is still effective in its local governance role.

How much does it cost?

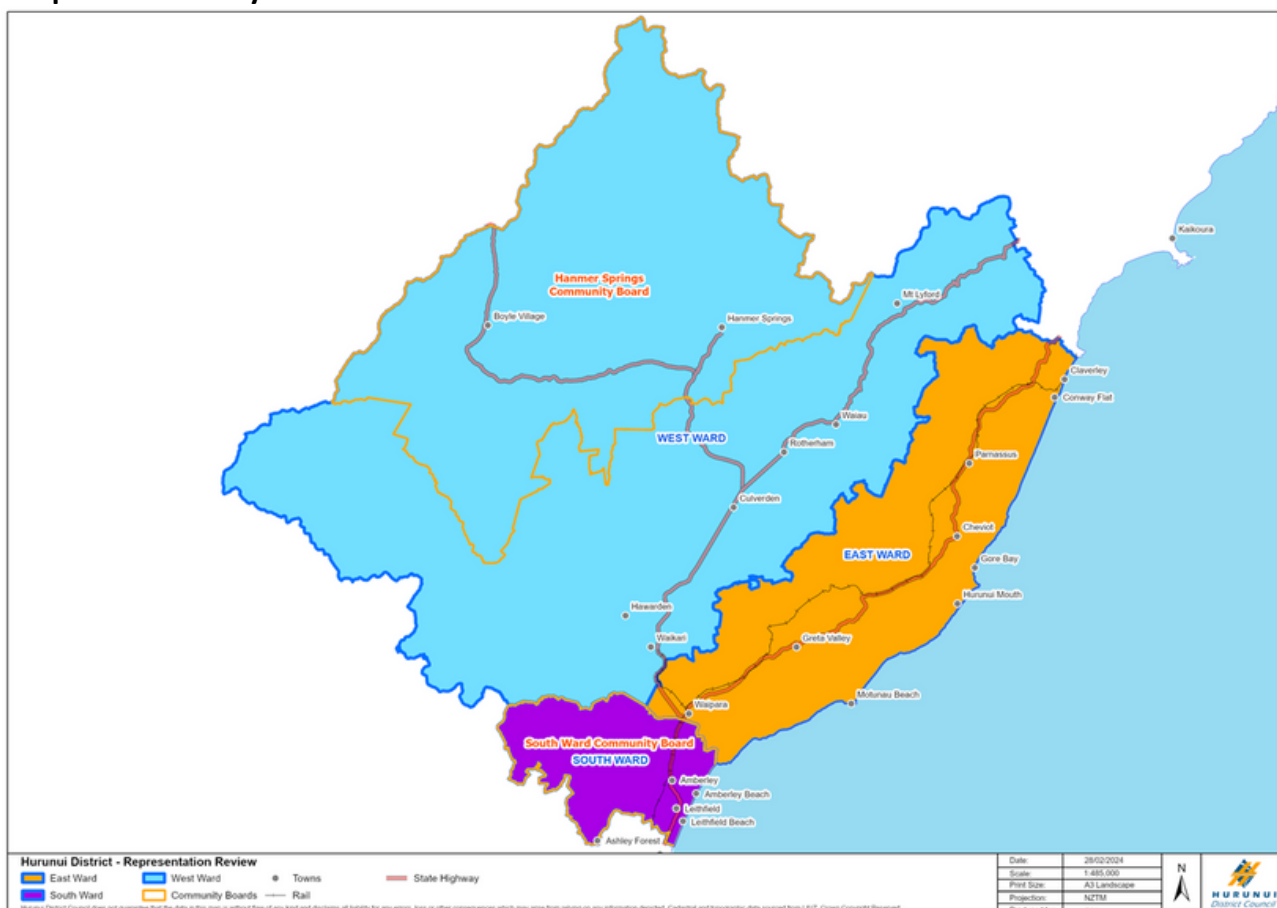
The cost of a Community Board is determined by the Remuneration Authority and last year they determined that that the annual payment to the Hanmer Springs Community Board Members would be \$25,770 split into:

- Chairperson \$8,590
- Board Members \$4,295

This would be approximately \$17 per Hanmer Springs rating area ratepayer per year.

Councillors are not paid to be appointed members of a Community Board.

Map 1: Community Boards within the Hurunui district



CREATION OF SUBDIVISIONS IN SOUTH WARD

It is proposed that two (2) subdivisions are formed in the South Ward. These have been formed on electoral Statistical Area 2 (SA2).

It is proposed that the Amberley Township SA2 would form one subdivision and the combination of the Ashley Forest SA2 and Balcairn SA2 would form another subdivision.

How did we name them?

It is proposed that 'Amberley' is used for the Amberley Township as a logical name, and 'Kowai' for the remainder of the South Ward.

The Kowai name has been considered in reference to the Kowai River and the historic Kowai County.

The Amberley Subdivision encompasses the Amberley Township shown in the purple outline.

The Kowai Subdivision encompasses the rest of the Ward outlined in blue and includes both areas.

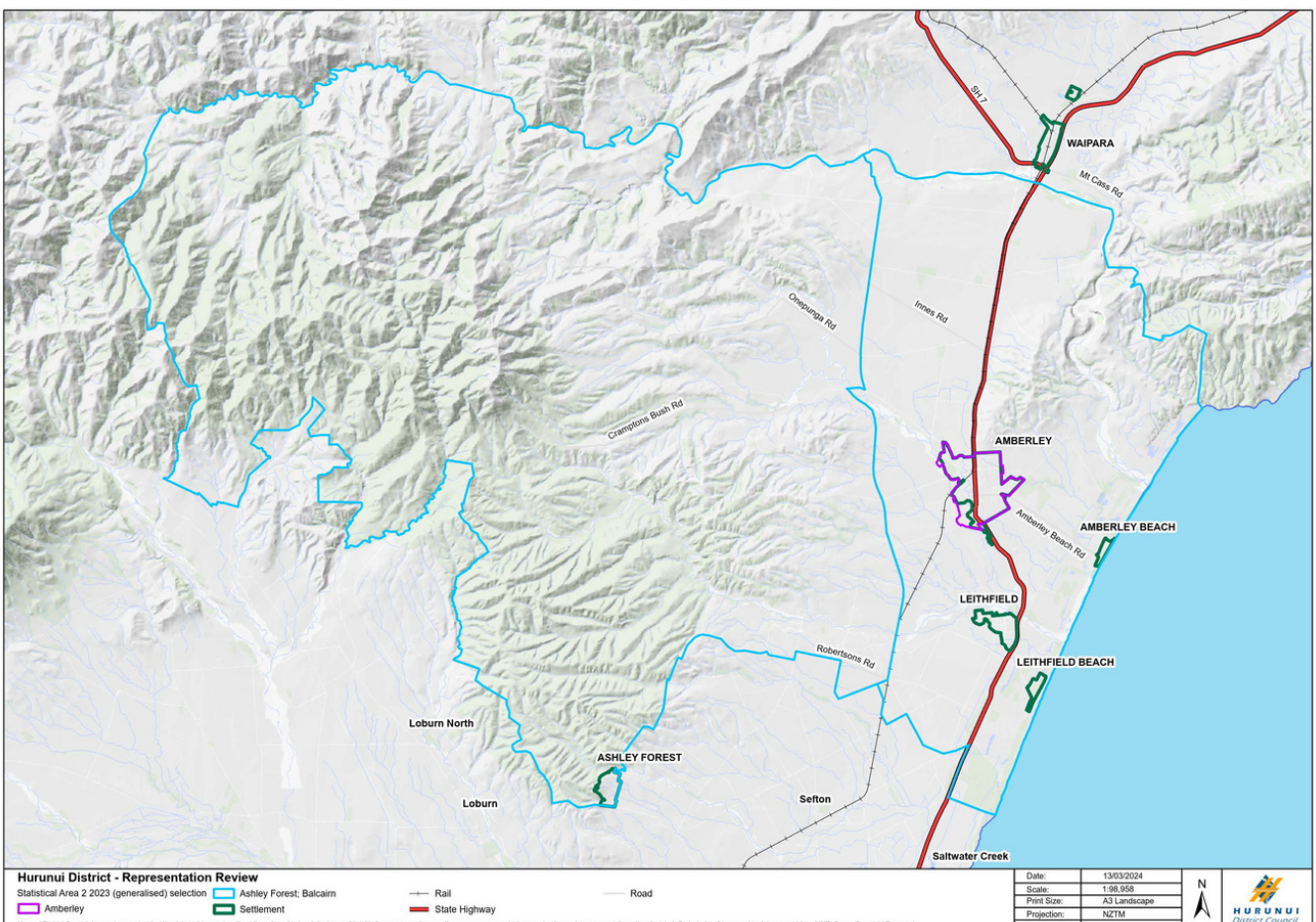
Why Subdivisions?

These would be formed to enable the Community Board members to be elected from two areas. Ensuring fair representation of the South Ward.

It is proposed that two (2) board members would be elected from the 'Amberley Subdivision' and three (3) from the 'Kowai Subdivision'.

While members of the Community Board would be elected from two subdivisions, they will come together to work as one Board forging a better future for the South Ward as a whole.

Map 2: South Ward proposed subdivision boundaries



COMMUNITY BOARD NUMBERS

The following numbers show the population to board member ratio. As the Hanmer Springs Community Board is elected at large, there is no requirement for the +/-10% rule.

The South Ward Community Board, if split into two electoral subdivisions, will need to comply with the +/- 10% rule and as such will need to be within the population range of 1,022 to 1,249 per board member.

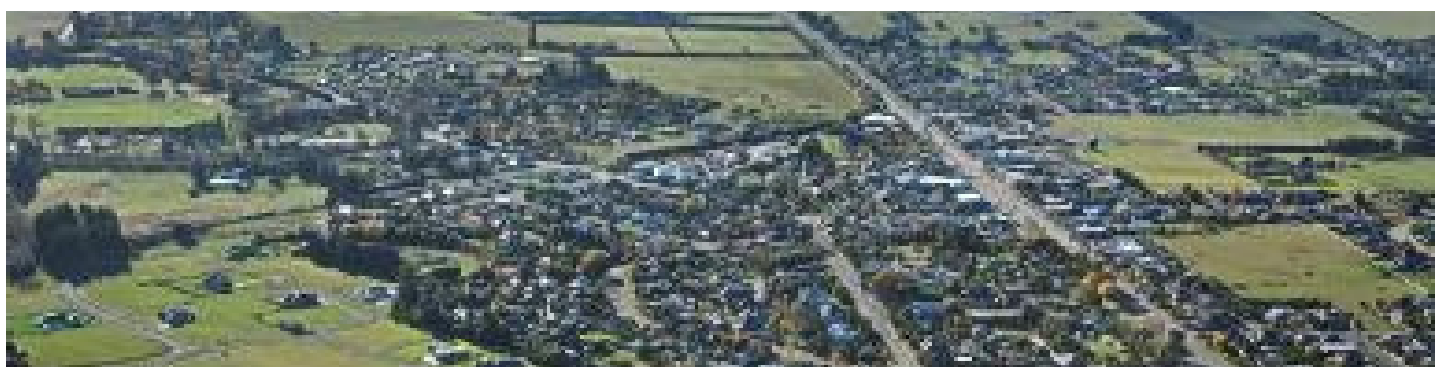
The numbers marked * are sourced from the 2023 Statistical Areas 2, based from the 2018 census data.

Due to rounding, these individual figures do not sum to the stated South Ward population total and are 10 people lower.

However, even with the additional 10 added, the numbers still fit in the +/-10% rule.

Table 2: Population / Member ratio for Community Boards

Ward Name	Population	Member Numbers	Population per Member	Complies With Act	% Difference from Quota
Hanmer Springs Community Board	1,220	5	284		
South Ward Community Board					
Amberley Subdivision	2,380*	2	1190	Yes	4.94
Kowai Subdivision	3,290*	3	1097	Yes	-3.29
Total	5,680	5	1136		





SUBMISSIONS

The Council now invites submissions on this initial proposal.

The submission period closes on **Wednesday, 8 May 2024 at 5pm.**

The Council will hear the submissions at a Council hearing meeting on Tuesday, 11 June 2024, with the Final Proposal decision likely to be made on Tuesday, 25 June 2024 at the Council meeting.

Submissions must be made in writing.

- Online at www.hurunui.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultations
- Email to submission@hurunui.govt.nz
- Drop off to any council office or library in the district
- Post to:
Hurunui District Council
PO Box 13
Amberley 7441

Further Information

- Contact your local councillor, or
- Michelle Stanley
Governance Team Leader
michelle.stanley@hurunui.govt.nz
0204 1333 201
- www.lgc.govt.nz/our-work/representation-reviews/

Appeals or objections of Final Proposal

After considering public submissions, the Council will deliberate and consider any changes to the proposal. The Council will publicly notify its final decision in July 2024. Any person then has the right to lodge an appeal or objection to that decision within a month of it being advertised.

Should anyone object or appeal, the Council must refer any objections to the Local Government Commission (LGC) which will then consider those objections and appeals. In this case, the LGC will need to make its determination by 10 April 2025.

If there are no appeals or objections, the Council's decision is final and the new representation arrangements will take effect for the next triennial local government elections to be held on 11 October 2025.

The LGC's determination may be appealed on points of law, and is subject to judicial review.