

25 May 2020

Official Information Request No. 8140006698
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Simon Veritas
fyi-request-12696-3eb4ba4e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Simon

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: guarantee of employment with Auckland Council

I refer to your email, which we received on 24 April 2020, requesting information about guarantee of employment with Auckland Council.

For ease of reference, I have included your request below:

1. Has any manager of tier 3 or above guaranteed employment for Auckland Council staff for any period of time as a result of Covid-19?
2. If the answer to the above is no, please provide a transcript of Regulatory Directors' Chat of 17 and 24 March
3. If the answer is yes, who, when, and what was the exact wording of the guarantee?
4. Any communication (email, text, or memories of meetings) between the Director Regulatory Services and the Chief Exec or acting Chief Exec or any senior manager (tier 3 or above) relating to Covid-19 and employment of staff between 24 and 26 March

In his Director's Chat on 24 March 2020, Craig Hobbs advised the Regulatory Services Directorate that "council has guaranteed your employment for 12 months and beyond." On 26 March 2020, Mr Hobbs sent an email to the directorate retracting this statement.

I have liaised with all Executive Officers in relation to all other tier three managers and tier two division leads. I have been advised that no manager has guaranteed employment for Auckland Council staff for a period of time as a result of Covid-19.

The email bundle attached contains the information readily available to respond to your request:

- The notes distributed to staff after the Director's Chat on 24 March 2020.
- Correspondence between Mr Hobbs and Patricia Reade, Director People and Performance.
- The email sent to staff in Regulatory Services Directorate from Mr Hobbs on 26 March 2020.
- The same email forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team (including Stephen Town, Chief Executive) from Mr Hobbs.

A brief phone conversation took place between Mr Hobbs and Ms Reade on 26 March 2020. To the best of Mr Hobbs' recollection, it is likely that they discussed:

- The context of Mr Hobbs' statement during his Director's Chat dated 24 March.
- Mr Hobbs' proposed wording in his draft email to staff, which Ms Reade had questioned.

For completeness, other than what is provided, Mr Hobbs did not communicate with Mr Town or any other senior manager regarding this topic between the 24 and 26 March 2020.

Decisions pertaining to the release of this information have been made by **Sara Hay, Executive Officer to Stephen Town.**

As advised in a previous response, if you have concerns about the conduct of the council's staff, you can raise a complaint with the council's Assurance Services team. The Assurance Services team are independent to the council and are tasked with investigating integrity-related complaints and issues. To contact the Assurance Services team, please email: assuranceservices@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Mr Hobbs is also happy to discuss any concerns you may have. To arrange a phone call or meeting, please contact Mr Hobbs by email: craig.hobbs@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or phone: 027 454 8845.

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request, you have the right by way of complaint, under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, to apply to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the decision.

If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting Official Information Request No. 8140006698.

Yours sincerely



Grace Ray
Senior Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner
Democracy Services