

20 July 2021

Official Information Request 8140008778  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Terry Thomas

By email: [fyi-request-15849-20c6caa3@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15849-20c6caa3@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Terry

**Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)**

**Re: Speak Up for Women event**

Thank you for your information request dated 21 June 2021, for communications, reports, notes, agendas, meeting attendance lists, minutes, advice and decision documents relating to the Speak Up for Women (SUFW) event planned for Ellen Melville Centre and/or Pioneer Women's Hall.

You clarified on 1 July that you wanted information within council and between and from councillors commenting on the appropriateness of the event, assessing the meeting, the venue and options available to council and how council reached the decision to cancel.

However, these are not specific search terms. Unless we have very specific, unique key words in a search, because of the general nature of language, we cannot rely on our email search tool alone for a high degree of precision in extracting only documents relevant to a request.

We would therefore need to review each of the 430 emails for relevance. We estimate 2 minutes per email as some emails will quicker to check than others. Our tool searches not only the subject and body of an email, it also searches attachments. When we have to check attachments as well, naturally the review time is extended.

We do not have the capacity to review the 430 emails that our search has returned without it having an impact on our ability to carry out our day-to-day work.

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are unable to grant your request in its current form. Accordingly, this request is refused under section 17(f) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

However, we can advise you that:

- on 29 May we received an online booking by SUFW for the Ellen Melville Centre. The booking was made for Sunday 27 June 2021
- the SUFW advised the council of the booking on 1 June, with the council advising the same day it would carry out a health, safety and wellbeing assessment by an independent specialist (All About People). The independent specialist holds a Masters in

Workplace Health & Safety, BBS, GCertWHS, ProfNZISM and is a SafePlus Assessor. On 17 June 2021, following the identification of a critical risk with the event proceeding at the Ellen Melville centre, alternative venues were offered

- the identification of risk was made by members of staff associated with the venue and discussed with senior leaders at Auckland Council, who then informed All About People. All About People recommended that the council either cancel the event at Ellen Mellville or offer an alternative venue that may not hold such a critical risk. The council is not at liberty to discuss the nature of that risk
- the council was able to come to an agreement with the organisers on the provision of the Town Hall as an alternative venue for the event. The decision to offer alternative venues was made by staff, not the elected members of Auckland Council. We consider the public interest in the event is satisfied by the provision of this summary.

Decisions relating to the response to your request were made by Claudia Wyss, Director, Customer and Community Services.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting official information request number 8140008778.

Yours sincerely



Samantha Sinclair  
Senior Privacy & Official Information Business Partner  
Governance Services