

14 February 2025

Chris Milne

[fyi-request-29535-09afe6ff@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29535-09afe6ff@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Chris Milne

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (the Act) 1987**

I refer to your request dated 12 December 2024 for:

*Please supply all communications and information as specified under 1) and 2) below during 2024 relevant to the Hutt City Council's removal of NZCPR's insert of Sir Āpirana Ngata's "The Treaty of Waitangi – an Explanation" from its premises:*

- 1) Communications and or information in any form between the mayor and/or councillors and/or HCC officers.*
- 2) Communications and/or information in any form sent to or received by HCC officers and/or councillors and/or the mayor to or from Stuff and/or the Hutt News.*
- 3) the identity of the officer who issued a directive for removal of the Ngata insert sent to HCC council facilities, including the council's libraries, at 5.07pm on 1 February 2024.*

In answer to questions 1 & 2, please find attached Information within the scope of your request.

Some Information has been withheld under section 7(2)(f)(ii) of the Act, as withholding the Information requested is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment. This includes the name of the officer asked for in question 3.



Some information is also withheld under section 7(2)(g) to maintain legal privilege.

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

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link: [www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases)

Yours sincerely

Philip Rossiter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

**From:** [Joann Ransom](#)  
**To:** [Liz Castle](#)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required  
**Date:** Friday, 2 February 2024 4:11:08 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)  
[ATT00002.png](#)

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what do you think?

START

Hi Andrea and Frances,

I am writing this email to you on behalf of my staff who are, like me, are disturbed that Council is censoring the information that is held in our hubs in the process of delivering library services.

LIANZA, the professional voice of librarians in NZ, have a [statement](#) on censorship which I feel the need to show you.

Yesterday my staff were asked by [REDACTED] to remove an insert from the Hutt News that went against our professional roles as librarians. Local newspapers, like the Hutt News, are external publications we make available to our customers. We can't and should not control what's in the Hutt News. Our role is to provide equitable access to information – unless it has been ruled illegal. Should we now also remove Mein Kampf from our collections? Should we stop providing internet access so customers can't go down rabbit holes and join QAnon? Where will it end?

Our mission as libraries is to be gateways to knowledge, rather than gatekeepers, supporting the intellectual freedom which is vital for both individual and societal development, innovation creativity, and the realisation of human rights.

Yesterday's actions did not align with our professional ethics and I would be reluctant to see my staff placed in that position again hence this email.

Jo.

**Joann Ransom**  
[Head Of Neighbourhood Hubs & Library Services](#)

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** [M:](#) [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** Liz Castle <xxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 3:46 PM  
**To:** Joann Ransom <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required

Jo – I have written about 20 replies to this over the last night/day – though all emotive. It makes me very uneasy with this council stick approach so I have (very sensibly) not sent any.

Anyhow here is one of them (replies that it) and I have sent only to you – earlier drafts have been addressed to all sorts of people !!

Can we please talk about this (you, me, Jacquie, Taitu, Helen) and whoever this directive came from. I guess the other thing I find intriguing/disturbing is that Ross (the most unlikely library supporter of all) nailed it – thought tbh I do not know who has contacted you direct. And the PWPH all did as they were ‘directed’ without questioning)

Liz

Jo - I find this very disturbing council are controlling the narrative of what are held in our hubs delivering library services -as you well know libraries provide access to information for all –

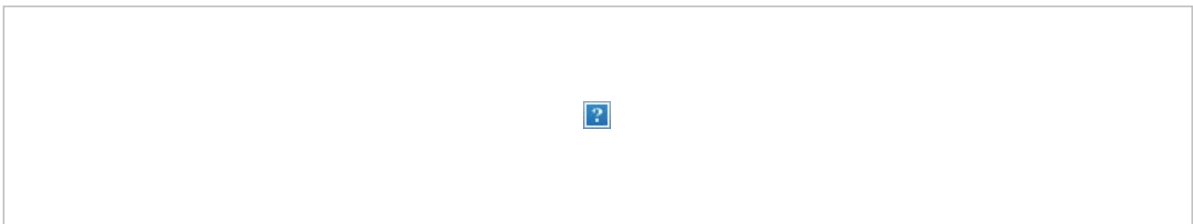
1. The Hutt News is an external publication we make available to our customers
2. We can't (and shouldn't) control what's in the Hutt News
3. Libraries are about equitable access to information – unless it has been ruled illegal
- 4.
5. Shall we remove Mein Kampf from our collections ...
6. Shall we stop providing internet access so customers can't go down rabbit holes and join QAnon?
7. *“This is essential if libraries are to be able to pursue their mission to be gateways to knowledge, rather than gatekeepers, supporting the intellectual freedom which is vital for both individual and societal development, innovation creativity, and the realisation of human rights.”*

**Liz Castle**

Collections Services Manager

Hutt City Council, 7 Britannia Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012

**P:** 04 568 6253 **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 9:24 AM  
**To:** Ross Barber <[xxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Neighborhood Hub Managers <[xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Cc:** Joann Ransom <[xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Frances Gregory <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Michelle Palmer <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required

Kia ora Ross,

Thanks you for your email and valid question.

The decision was made by senior management to remove a racist advert/document from a newspaper that was delivered to us. The insert appears to be paid advertising for distribution.

As it does not align with our organisational values, we have the right to remove it from our premise.

Thanks,

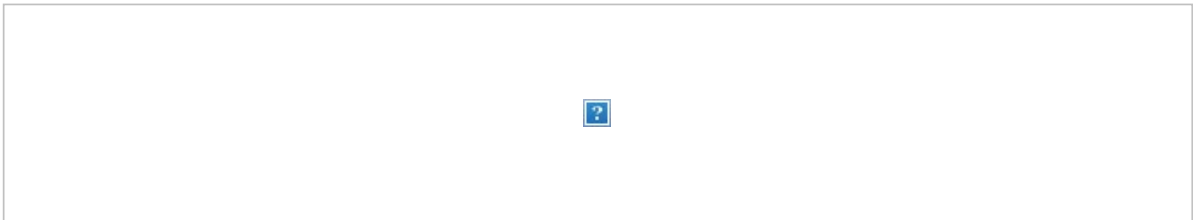
██████████

██████████

Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: ██████████ **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** Ross Barber <[xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 8:41 AM

**To:** ██████████ <██████████> Neighborhood Hub Managers  
<[xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Cc:** Joann Ransom <[xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Frances Gregory <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>;  
Michelle Palmer <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required

Kia ora ██████████ all removed at WNC

Can I with respect ask how the decision to remove the insert was made, given that HCC is not part of Huttnews and the insert was in every paper this morning (and including our home letterbox) so seems like a paid for insert rather than a random one?

It may be that members of the public might ask this question if they've come into the library to specifically read or take home this insert

Nga mihi

**Ross Barber**

Pou Whakahaere Pokapu Hapori

Walter Nash Centre, 22 - 26 Taine Street, Taita, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand

T 04 570 6733, extn 8733, M ██████████ W [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



**Ross Barber**

Site Lead | Pou Whakahaere Pokapu Hapori

Hutt City Council, 22/26 Taine Street, Taitā, Lower Hutt 5011

**P:** 04 570 6733 **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:07 PM

**To:** Neighborhood Hub Managers <[pouwhakahaere@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:pouwhakahaere@huttcity.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Joann Ransom <[joann.Ransom@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:joann.Ransom@huttcity.govt.nz)>; Frances Gregory <[Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz)>; Michelle Palmer <[Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** URGENT - Action required

**Importance:** High

Kia ora everyone,

It has been brought to our attention that there is racist and upsetting insert that refers to Te Tiriti in the current issue of the Hutt News.

This insert is not in line with Hutt City Council values, so please make sure you **remove this from every available copy immediately.**

Can you please reply to this email with confirmation this has been actioned in your Hub.

Thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

**From:** [Jacquie Arnot](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Taitu Lemessa](#)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required  
**Date:** Friday, 2 February 2024 7:41:55 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)  
[ATT00002.png](#)

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Thanks, [REDACTED] Have followed up with the War Memorial team leaders as their site lead is on leave today. Let us know if you don't hear from any site and we will chase.

**Jacquie Arnot**  
Manager Neighbourhood Hubs - North

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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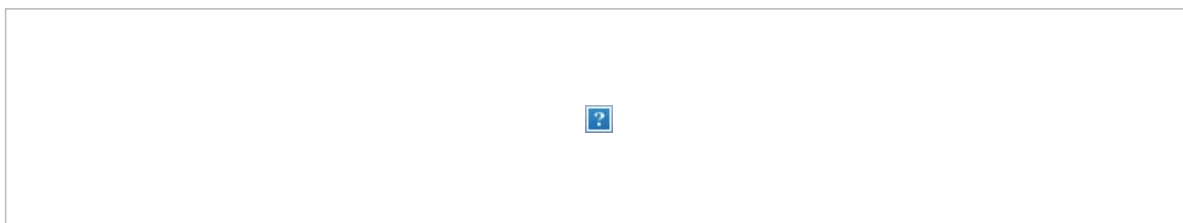
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:13 PM  
**To:** Jacquie Arnot <[x@xx](#)>; Taitu Lemessa <[Taitu.Lex@xx](#)>  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - Action required  
**Importance:** High

FYI ladies

[REDACTED]  
Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:07 PM  
**To:** Neighborhood Hub Managers <[@xx](#)>  
**Cc:** Joann Ransom <[x@xx](#)>; Frances Gregory <[x@xx](#)>;  
Michelle Palmer <[x@xx](#)>  
**Subject:** URGENT - Action required

**From:** [Phil Hollis](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [Ross Barber](#); [Neighborhood Hub Managers](#)  
**Cc:** [Joann Ransom](#); [Frances Gregory](#); [Michelle Palmer](#)  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - Action required  
**Date:** Friday, 2 February 2024 9:27:01 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)  
[ATT00002.png](#)

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Morena [REDACTED]

All removed here at Koraunui

Kind regards

Phil

Get Outlook for Android<<https://aka.ms/AAb9ysg>>Phil Hollis  
Site Lead | Pou Whakahaere Pokapu Hapori

Hutt City Council, 184 Stokes Valley Road, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 5019  
P: M: [REDACTED] W: [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 9:23:42 AM  
**To:** Ross Barber <[xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Neighborhood Hub Managers <[xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Cc:** Joann Ransom <[xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Frances Gregory <[Francxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:Francxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Michelle Palmer <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required

Kia ora Ross,

Thanks you for your email and valid question.

The decision was made by senior management to remove a racist advert/document from a newspaper that was delivered to us. The insert appears to be paid advertising for distribution.

As it does not align with our organisational values, we have the right to remove it from our premise.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:07 PM  
To: Neighborhood Hub Managers  
<xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx> <mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>;  
Cc: Joann Ransom <xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx> <mailto:xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>; Frances  
Gregory <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx> <mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>; Michelle Palmer  
<xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx> <mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx>;  
Subject: URGENT - Action required  
Importance: High

Kia ora everyone,

It has been brought to our attention that there is racist and upsetting insert that refers to Te Tiriti in the current issue of the Hutt News.

This insert is not in line with Hutt City Council values, so please make sure you remove this from every available copy immediately.

Can you please reply to this email with confirmation this has been actioned in your Hub.

Thanks in advance,



[REDACTED]  
Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010  
P: M: [REDACTED] W: www.huttcity.govt.nz

[cid:image002.png@01DA55B9.8283FE10]

[cid:image003.png@01DA55B9.8283FE10]<<http://hutt.city/watershortage>>

**From:** [Sam Voss](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Neighborhood Hub Managers](#)  
**Cc:** [Joann Ransom](#); [Frances Gregory](#); [Michelle Palmer](#)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 February 2024 5:15:19 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[IMG2HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5.png.png](#)  
[IMG3WaterRestrictions-EmailBanner-Level2.png.png](#)

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Kia ora

I can confirm that Eastbourne Hub has removed all inserts from available copies.

Ngā mihi

**Sam Voss**  
Site Lead | Pou Whakahaere Pokapū Hapori

Hutt City Council, 38 Rimu Street, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013  
**P:** 04 562 8042 **M:** **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:07 PM  
**To:** Neighborhood Hub Managers <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Joann Ransom <[REDACTED]>; Frances Gregory <[REDACTED]>;  
Michelle Palmer <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** URGENT - Action required  
**Importance:** High

Kia ora everyone,

It has been brought to our attention that there is racist and upsetting insert that refers to Te Tiriti in the current issue of the Hutt News.

This insert is not in line with Hutt City Council values, so please make sure you **remove this from every available copy immediately.**

Can you please reply to this email with confirmation this has been actioned in your Hub.

Thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010  
**P:** **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

**From:** [Michelle Palmer](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday, 1 February 2024 4:58:50 pm

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hi, there is a really racist publication advert booklet thing in the current Hutt News. They are in every hub and library - can you put a notice out please to the libraries and hubs to remove the racist document from any Hutt News they have in stock. it is a white paper document about Te Tiriti. we are going to write to the Hutt News formally

**From:** [Frances Gregory](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Removal of insert from Hutt News  
**Date:** Wednesday, 14 February 2024 9:15:00 am  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-gywfmrng.png](#)  
[Outlook-odk1nvzt.png](#)  
[Outlook-xsbftq1.png](#)

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FYI.

Ngā mihi,  
Frances  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jarred Griffiths <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:00 AM  
**To:** Joann Ransom <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Andrea Blackshaw <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Hi Joann,

Apologies for the delay coming back to you on this.

Can I please ask that you send emails like the one below to Michelle Palmer as the head of the business unit. It comes across as reasonably heavy-handed to email a tier-4 manager from another group copying in your director.

It's fair enough to want to robustly engage on an issue, however I ask you do this directly with a senior colleague on the same management level as you please.

In terms of the substantive issues you raise, I'm happy to have an in-person or Teams discussion if useful. Please advise if that is something you'd like to do.

Ngā mihi,

**Jarred Griffiths** ([He/Him](#))  
[Kaihautu Rautaki me nga Hononga | Director Strategy and Engagement](#)

Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand  
**Kawereo:** [REDACTED] [Paetukutuku: www.huttcity.govt.nz](#)

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

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**From:** Joann Ransom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 4:37 PM  
**To:** Andrea Blackshaw <[REDACTED]> Frances Gregory <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Removal of insert from Hutt News

**From:** [Liz Castle](#)  
**To:** [Joann Ransom](#)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required  
**Date:** Friday, 2 February 2024 4:34:34 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)  
[ATT00002.png](#)

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Ooh I like it – the highlighted words can be removed

FYI and so you're informed Sas posted this in our teams chat a couple of days ago (before this)

<https://www.lianza.org.nz/resources/freedom-to-read/>

if you follow the thread there is a statement [copied below] that 'could' be interpreted by Council (as the parent organisation) as justifying this – though as a public library I'd think it a stretch too far. As the closer relationship with Council is developing they too need to learn about what they do not know and what they should not control. Thanks for going into bat for us !! 😊

## BACKGROUND

A challenge is when someone attempts to censor, remove, or restrict access to a publication, either so that it can't be accessed at all, or that it becomes hard to access.

- Challenged items can be in any format: printed books, e-books, DVDs, or content on a streaming site your library offers a subscription to.
- Challenges can include things inside the library, like an event the library holds or hosts, a themed display, or an exhibition. A challenge can come from anyone: a patron, members of the public, parents, an organisation, or internally from a staff member.
- **Sometimes, challenges can be justified.** There are arguments for protecting people from certain information, and there is legislation to ensure this. Alternatively, a library may remove or restrict access to an item based on its collection scope, policy documents, values, **or the values of its parent organisation.**

**Liz Castle**  
Collections Services Manager

Hutt City Council, 7 Britannia Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012  
**P:** 04 568 6253 **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** Joann Ransom <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 4:11 PM  
**To:** Liz Castle <xxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required

what do you think?

**From:** [Andrea Blackshaw](#)  
**To:** [Joann Ransom](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Removal of insert from Hutt News  
**Date:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 4:40:55 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)  
[ATT00002.png](#)

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Hello – just a heads up that Jarred has asked to talk to me about this. We can pick it up when we catch up next week.

AB

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**Andrea Blackshaw**  
Director Neighbourhoods & Communities

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P: M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



**From:** Joann Ransom <[xx@xx](#)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:54 AM  
**To:** Jarred Griffiths <[xx@xx](#)>  
**Cc:** Andrea Blackshaw <[xx@xx](#)>; Michelle Palmer <[xx@xx](#)>  
**Subject:** RE: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Morena Jarred,

I did spend considerable time working out who I needed to contact about this and figured it needed to be Frances who is my point of contact in Comms (this has been discussed and agreed in recent weeks) and then Andrea as my boss not as a 'Director'. I wasn't consciously taking it to a CLT level but trying to address it at a business level. I genuinely thought that was the right thing to do and I apologise for getting that wrong.

The issue is that my 5<sup>th</sup> tier site managers were issued an instruction to remove an insert from the local newspaper when the decision and responsibility for censoring library collections sits with the Library Manager.

The outcome of this instruction and immediate compliance by my staff is that a section of our society, those who access newspapers through the library, have been denied access to information that the rest of the City (and actually much of NZ) has been able to access. This does not align with my professional ethics and responsibility as a librarian.

I am happy to discuss this further if you see merit in doing so but equally I think it is probably not necessary – so over to you.

Nga mihi

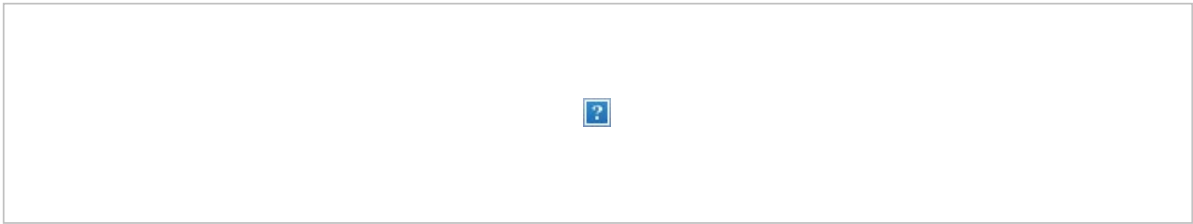
Jo.

**Joann Ransom**

Head Of Neighbourhood Hubs & Library Services

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** Jarred Griffiths <[x@xx](mailto:x@xx)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:00 AM  
**To:** Joann Ransom <[x@xx](mailto:x@xx)>  
**Cc:** Andrea Blackshaw <[x@xx](mailto:x@xx)>  
**Subject:** Re: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Hi Joann,

Apologies for the delay coming back to you on this.

Can I please ask that you send emails like the one below to Michelle Palmer as the head of the business unit. It comes across as reasonably heavy-handed to email a tier-4 manager from another group copying in your director.

It's fair enough to want to robustly engage on an issue, however I ask you do this directly with a senior colleague on the same management level as you please.

In terms of the substantive issues you raise, I'm happy to have an in-person or Teams discussion if useful. Please advise if that is something you'd like to do.

Ngā mihi,

**Jarred Griffiths** ([He/Him](#))

Kaihautu Rautaki me nga Hononga | Director Strategy and Engagement

Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand

**Kawereo:** [REDACTED] **Paetukutuku:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

**From:** [Bradley Cato](#)  
**To:** [Jarred Griffiths](#); [Andrea Blackshaw](#)  
**Cc:** [Caryn Ellis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Jo Miller  
**Date:** Monday, 19 February 2024 11:38:51 am  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.jpg](#)  
[IMG4HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5\\_png.png](#)  
[IMG5WaterRestrictions-EmailBanner-Level2\\_png.png](#)

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Fine with me.

The sentence around "...incite racism in our facilities and that simply does not align with our organisation values ..." read a little strangely? As in it seems a bit strange to say inciting racism doesn't align with our values? Maybe 2 concepts – the publication doesn't align with our values and may even go so far as to incite racism?

**Bradley Cato**  
Chief Legal Officer

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** Jarred Griffiths <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 11:28 AM  
**To:** Andrea Blackshaw <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>; Bradley Cato <Braxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Cc:** Caryn Ellis <xxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Jo Miller

Kia ora kōrua,

Can you please both review the draft response below, and come back to Caryn with any changes?

Ngā mihi,

**Jarred Griffiths** (He/Him)  
Kaihautū Rautaki me ngā Hononga | Director Strategy and Engagement

[REDACTED]  
huttcity.govt.nz

> Sent from my mobile

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**From:** Jarred Griffiths <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 10:40:12 PM  
**To:** Caryn Ellis <xxxxx.xxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Jo Miller

Kia ora koutou,



Have put together a draft below very quickly. Suggest Andrea and Brad review?

Tēnā koe Frank,

I understand our Hubs and Library Services Team were asked to consider separating the insert from the Hutt News. It was not a directive from senior management.

This followed a range of feedback from staff, including from Māori kaimahi, who considered the insert to be of a racist and misinforming nature.

Upon review of the insert, I'm also inclined to believe that material of this nature may incite racism in our facilities and that simply does not align with our organisation values.

While I'm not clear if/and how many of the inserts may have been removed, I would note that at most it may have been a handful of copies in the context of a publication that goes to many thousands of households across Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai.

Nāku noa, nā,

Jo Miller

Ngā mihi,

**Jarred Griffiths** ([He/Him](#))

[Kaihautu Rautaki me nga Hononga | Director Strategy and Engagement](#)

Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand

**Kawereo:** [REDACTED] **Paetukutuku:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

---

**From:** Caryn Ellis <[xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.x](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.x)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:42 PM

**To:** Jarred Griffiths <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.x](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.x)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Jo Miller

Forwarding again as received a message saying the email didn't get through to you.

**Caryn Ellis** She/Her

[Pou Arataki Tari o Te Tumu Whakarae | Head of CE's Office](#)

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P: M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

**From:** [Frances Gregory](#)  
**To:** [Jarred Griffiths](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Removal of insert from Hutt News  
**Date:** Wednesday, 7 February 2024 9:05:42 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)  
[ATT00002.png](#)  
[RE URGENT - Action required.msg](#)

---

Sure thing! See attached.

Thank you.

Ngā mihi,  
Frances

**Frances Gregory**  
Communications Lead

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



---

**From:** Jarred Griffiths <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:56 AM  
**To:** Frances Gregory <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>; Michelle Palmer <Mixxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Re: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Kia ora,

Yup, I can. Can you flick through what [REDACTED] sent to the hubs teams please?

Ngā mihi,

**Jarred Griffiths** (He/Him)  
Kaihautū Rautaki me ngā Hononga | Director Strategy and Engagement

[REDACTED]  
huttcity.govt.nz

> Sent from my mobile

---

**From:** Frances Gregory <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:44:30 AM  
**To:** Michelle Palmer <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx >; Jarred Griffiths <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx >  
**Subject:** FW: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Kia ora team,

See below from Jo – I wasn't part of this process/decision. Could one of you please go back to her?

Thank you!

Ngā mihi,  
Frances



**Frances Gregory**  
Communications Lead

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



---

**From:** Joann Ransom <[xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 4:37 PM  
**To:** Andrea Blackshaw <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>; Frances Gregory  
<[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** Removal of insert from Hutt News

Kia ora Andrea and Frances,

I am writing this email to you on behalf of my staff who, like me, are disturbed Council is censoring information that is held in our hubs in the process of delivering library services.

LIANZA, the professional voice of librarians in NZ, have a [statement](#) on censorship which I feel the need to show you.

Yesterday my staff were asked by to remove an insert from the Hutt News that went against our professional roles as librarians. Local newspapers, like the Hutt News, are external publications we make available to our customers. We can't and should not control what's in the Hutt News.

Our role is to provide equitable access to information – unless it has been ruled illegal. Should we now also remove Mein Kampf from our collections? Should we stop providing internet access so customers can't go down rabbit holes and join QAnon? Where will it end?

Our mission as libraries is to be gateways to knowledge, rather than gatekeepers, supporting the intellectual freedom which is vital for both individual and societal development, innovation creativity, and the realisation of human rights.

Yesterday's actions did not align with our professional ethics and I would be reluctant to see my staff placed in that position again hence this email.

Nga mihi

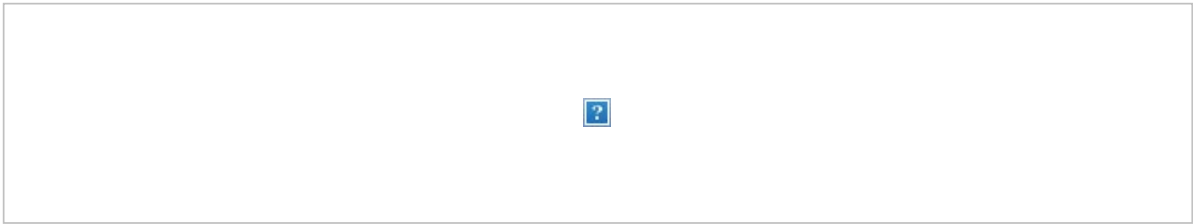
Jo.

**Joann Ransom**

Head Of Neighbourhood Hubs & Library Services

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Frances Gregory](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 8:58:42 am

---

sorry forgot to mention late yest Jarred asked about the draft letter to Post CE re the racist advertorial - Dave was drafting letter - could you follow Dave up with that draft please? i wrongly assumed it had gone straight to jarred. thanks

**From:** [Jo Miller](#)  
**To:** [Dave Burgess](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 March 2024 12:52:30 pm

---

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/atea/05-02-2024/according-to-apirana-ngata-maori-ceded-sovereignty-by-signing-te-tiriti-is-he-right#1853>

**From:** [Dave Burgess](#)  
**To:** [Nicholas Boyack](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 11:05:00 am  
**Attachments:** [~WRD0271.jpg](#)  
[FW EXTERNAL FW Attn Jo Miller.msg](#)  
[FW EXTERNAL Hutt City Council censors work of revered and respected Māori leader .msg](#)

---

Hey Nicholas

Please let me know if you can access these.

Cheers, Dave

---

**From:** Dave Burgess  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 4:49 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Boyack <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]

Hi Nicholas

Thanks for your email. I understand you've had a conversation and are awaiting the documents that are attached.

Have a great weekend, Dave

---

**From:** Nicholas Boyack <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 11:30 AM  
**To:** Dave Burgess <[xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

Have the Taxpayers Union complained and is there any truth to this?

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071096526791>

Nicholas

--

**Nicholas Boyack**

Senior journalist

**E** [xxxx@xxxx](mailto:xxxx@xxxx) | **M** 0276420086  
Stuff Ltd, 10 Brandon St, Wellington, New Zealand  
PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140



**From:** [Dave Burgess](#)  
**To:** [Nicholas Boyack](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Friday, 8 March 2024 4:48:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [~WRD0271.jpg](#)  
[FW EXTERNAL FW Attn Jo Miller.msg](#)  
[FW EXTERNAL Hutt City Council censors work of revered and respected Māori leader .msg](#)

---

Hi Nicholas

Thanks for your email. I understand you've had a conversation and are awaiting the documents that are attached.

Have a great weekend, Dave

---

**From:** Nicholas Boyack <xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 11:30 AM  
**To:** Dave Burgess <xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

Have the Taxpayers Union complained and is there any truth to this?

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071096526791>

Nicholas

--

**Nicholas Boyack**

Senior journalist

E [✉](#) | M 0276420086  
Stuff Ltd, 10 Brandon St, Wellington, New Zealand  
PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140



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**From:** [Joann Ransom](#)  
**To:** [Andrea Blackshaw](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Hutt City Council (1)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 March 2024 4:53:44 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[ATT00001.png](#)  
[ATT00002.png](#)

---

I've been waiting for this axe to fall ....

**Joann Ransom**  
[Head Of Neighbourhood Hubs & Library Services](#)

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P: M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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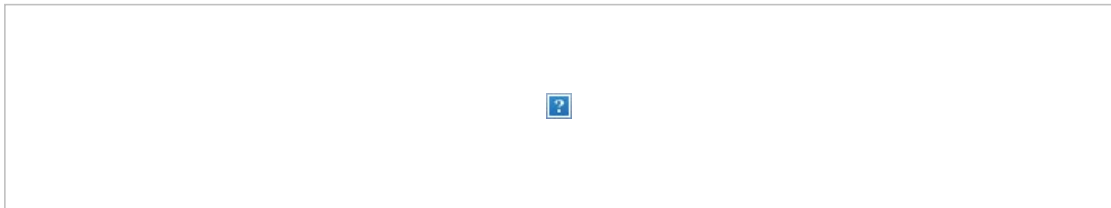
**From:** Andrea Blackshaw <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 4:52 PM  
**To:** Joann Ransom <xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Hutt City Council (1)

FYI

**Andrea Blackshaw**  
[Director Neighbourhoods & Communities](#)

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P: M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



---

**From:** Fuseworks Media <xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:45 PM  
**To:** Andrea Blackshaw <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hutt City Council (1)



# Hutt City Council

## [Hutt City Council censors work of revered and respected Maori leader](#)

From Voxy

Published 15:40 05/03/2024

**Hutt City Council** banned an insert of Sir Apirana Ngata's 'Treaty of Waitangi - An Explanation' from its premises on the basis that it "spread a very particular political viewpoint" and "viewed as spreading misinformation." ... When the New Zealand Centre for Political Research (NZCPR), who funded the advocacy, asked for an explanation from **the Hutt City Council** as to why they banned the insert, their response was a poor excuse. ... " **The Hutt City Council** has a responsibility to uphold free speech under the Bill of Rights Act.

Report created by Kylie Armstrong, Hutt City Council. Powered by Fuseworks.

[Manage my subscriptions](#)

Report ID: 59b0e398-7d97-4092-bc9e-8466cb93dcf4

**From:** [Joann Ransom](#)  
**To:** [Jo Miller](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Correspondence with free speech union  
**Date:** Wednesday, 6 March 2024 8:32:53 am  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.png](#)  
[IMG1HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5 .png.png](#)  
[IMG2WaterRestrictions-EmailBanner-Level2 .png.png](#)

---

Morena Jo

Firstly, please accept my very sincere apologies for placing you in this position. I should have been far more temperate in my email and I am mortified. I want to be a good lieutenant to you and Andrea and in this case I let you down.

Unfortunately I didn't get the attachments so can't see what email trails were included. If you could please send me the attachment I would be appreciative.

One last sorry ...

Jo.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**Joann Ransom**  
Head Of Neighbourhood Hubs & Library Services

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



---

**From:** Jo Miller <~~xc@xx~~>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 8:01:53 AM  
**To:** Joann Ransom <~~xc@xx~~>  
**Subject:** Correspondence with free speech union

Kia Ora Joann

It was great to see you last week looking so well!

I'm attaching for your information a copy of correspondence I received from NZ free speech union and my reply for your information. This matter is also referred to in a blog on the NZCPR website.

If you'd like to discuss this, please get in touch and we can korero about this.

Many thanks Jo

Ngā mihi nui

**Jo Miller**  
Tumu Whakarae  
Chief Executive Officer

**From:** [Dave Burgess](#)  
**To:** [Nicholas Boyack](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 11:11:00 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)

---

Hey Nicholas

Below is what's in it:

**From:** Jo Miller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 1:29 PM  
**To:** Frank Newman <[xxxxx@xxxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Attn: Jo Miller

Kia ora Frank,

Further to your email of the 13<sup>th</sup> of February I can advise that, following concerns being raised, a limited number of inserts that you refer to were removed from the Hutt News which is available at our community hubs.

We generally do not support the dissemination of information of this nature in our official buildings. The insert produced by your organisation spread a very particular political viewpoint and without counterbalance, was viewed as spreading misinformation.

I stand by my staff regarding this operational matter.

Further to your last question I can confirm that neither the Mayor nor Councillors were appraised of this matter prior to the operational decision being made.

Ngā mihi,  
Jo

Ngā mihi nui

**Jo Miller**  
[Tumu Whakarae](#)  
[Chief Executive Officer](#)  
Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand  
**T:** 04 570 6773 | **M:** 027 213 7550  
**W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

Follow me on Twitter [@jomillernz](#)



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Withheld as outside scope

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**From:** Nicholas Boyack <nicholas.boyack@stuff.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:07 AM  
**To:** Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: [EXTERNAL]

No, the one with green button will not open.

On Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 11:05 AM Dave Burgess <[Dave.Burgess@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Dave.Burgess@huttcity.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hey Nicholas

Please let me know if you can access these.

Cheers, Dave

**Dave Burgess**  
Senior Media Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010  
**P:** **M:** 027 248 9230 **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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---

**From:** Dave Burgess  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 4:49 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Boyack <[nicholas.boyack@stuff.co.nz](mailto:nicholas.boyack@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL]

Hi Nicholas

Thanks for your email. I understand you've had a conversation and are awaiting the documents that are attached.

Have a great weekend, Dave

---

**From:** Nicholas Boyack <[nicholas.boyack@stuff.co.nz](mailto:nicholas.boyack@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 11:30 AM  
**To:** Dave Burgess <[Dave.Burgess@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Dave.Burgess@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

Have the Taxpayers Union complained and is there any truth to this?

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071096526791>

Nicholas

—

**Nicholas Boyack**  
Senior journalist

E [nicholas.boyack@stuff.co.nz](mailto:nicholas.boyack@stuff.co.nz) | M 0276420086  
Stuff Ltd, 10 Brandon St, Wellington, New Zealand  
PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140



**From:** [Liz Castle](#)  
**To:** [Joann Ransom](#); [Carol Fifield](#); [Jacquie Arnot](#); [Kristine Saunders](#); [Phil Hollis](#); [Ross Barber](#); [Sam Voss](#); [Sinead Carroll](#); [Taitu Lemessa](#); [Sam Voss](#); [Stacy McEwen - Hubs](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Removal of insert from Hutt News  
**Date:** Friday, 2 February 2024 4:44:26 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[IMG2HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5 .png.png](#)  
[IMG3WaterRestrictions-EmailBanner-Level2 .png.png](#)

---

Thanks Jo – you’re a star. Sums it up well ...

Liz

**Liz Castle**  
Collections Services Manager

Hutt City Council, 7 Britannia Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012  
**P:** 04 568 6253 **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



---

**From:** Joann Ransom <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 4:38 PM  
**To:** Carol Fifield <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Jacquie Arnot <Jacquie.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Kristine Saunders <xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Liz Castle <Liz.Castle@huttcity.govt.nz>; Phil Hollis <xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Ross Barber <xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.nz>; Sam Voss <xxx.xxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Sinead Carroll <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.nz>; Taitu Lemessa <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Sam Voss <xxx.xxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Stacy McEwen <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** FW: Removal of insert from Hutt News

FYI

**Joann Ransom**  
Head Of Neighbourhood Hubs & Library Services

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010  
**P:** **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Wainuiomata Community Hub](#)  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - Action required  
**Date:** Friday, 2 February 2024 9:56:00 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Thanks so much Pani.

Best,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Wainuiomata Community Hub <[x@xx](#)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** Taitu Lemessa <[x@xx](#)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - Action required

Kia Ora

We have removed all inserts out of the Hutt news

Ngā mihi,

**Pani**

---

**From:** Taitu Lemessa <[x@xx](#)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 8:42 AM  
**To:** Wainuiomata Community Hub <[x@xx](#)>; Sally Newton  
<[x@xx](#)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: URGENT - Action required

Can you please let [REDACTED] and me know once you removed this

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**Taitu Lemessa**

Manager Neighbourhood Hubs

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** 04 562 8042 **M:** [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

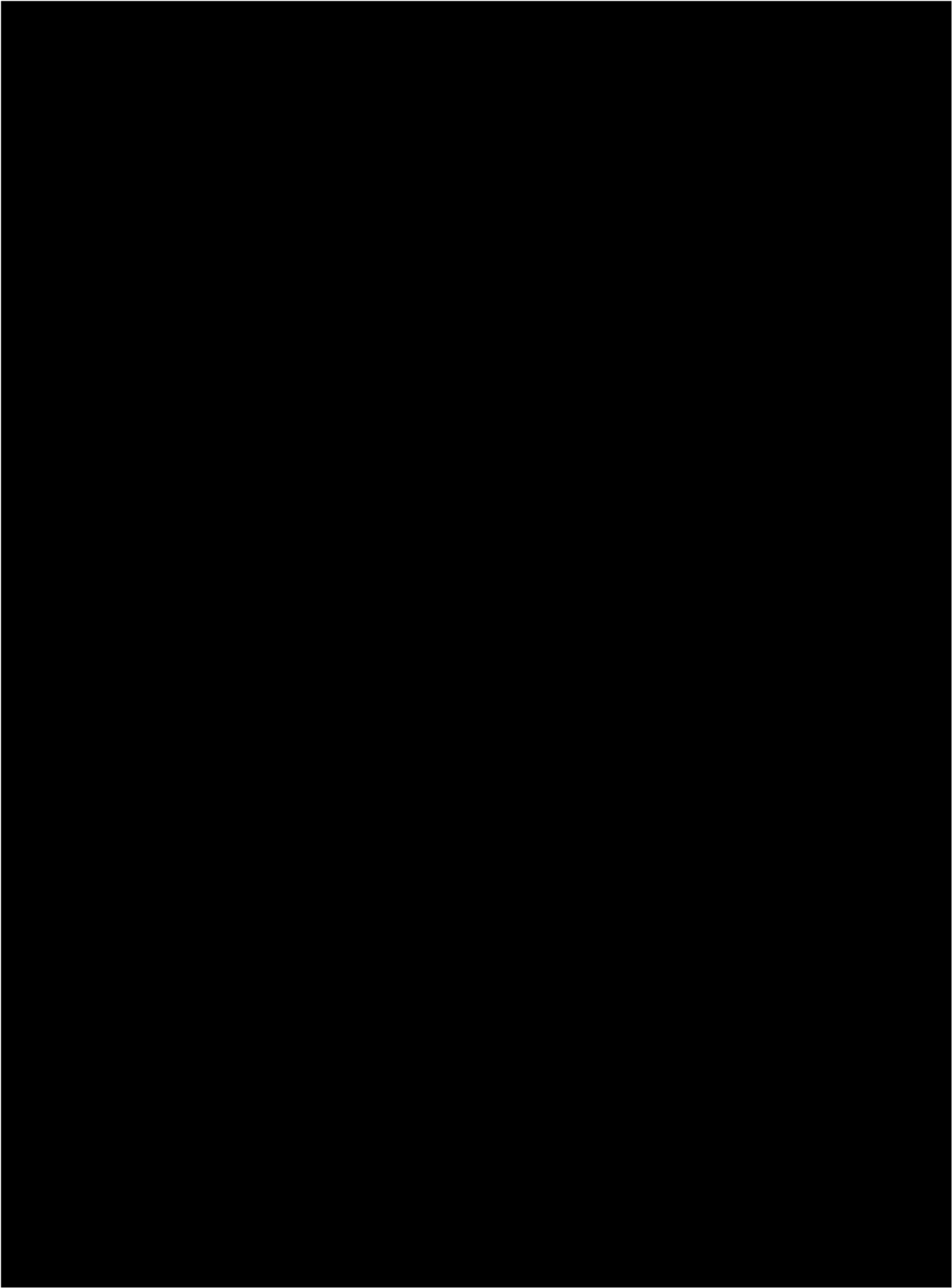




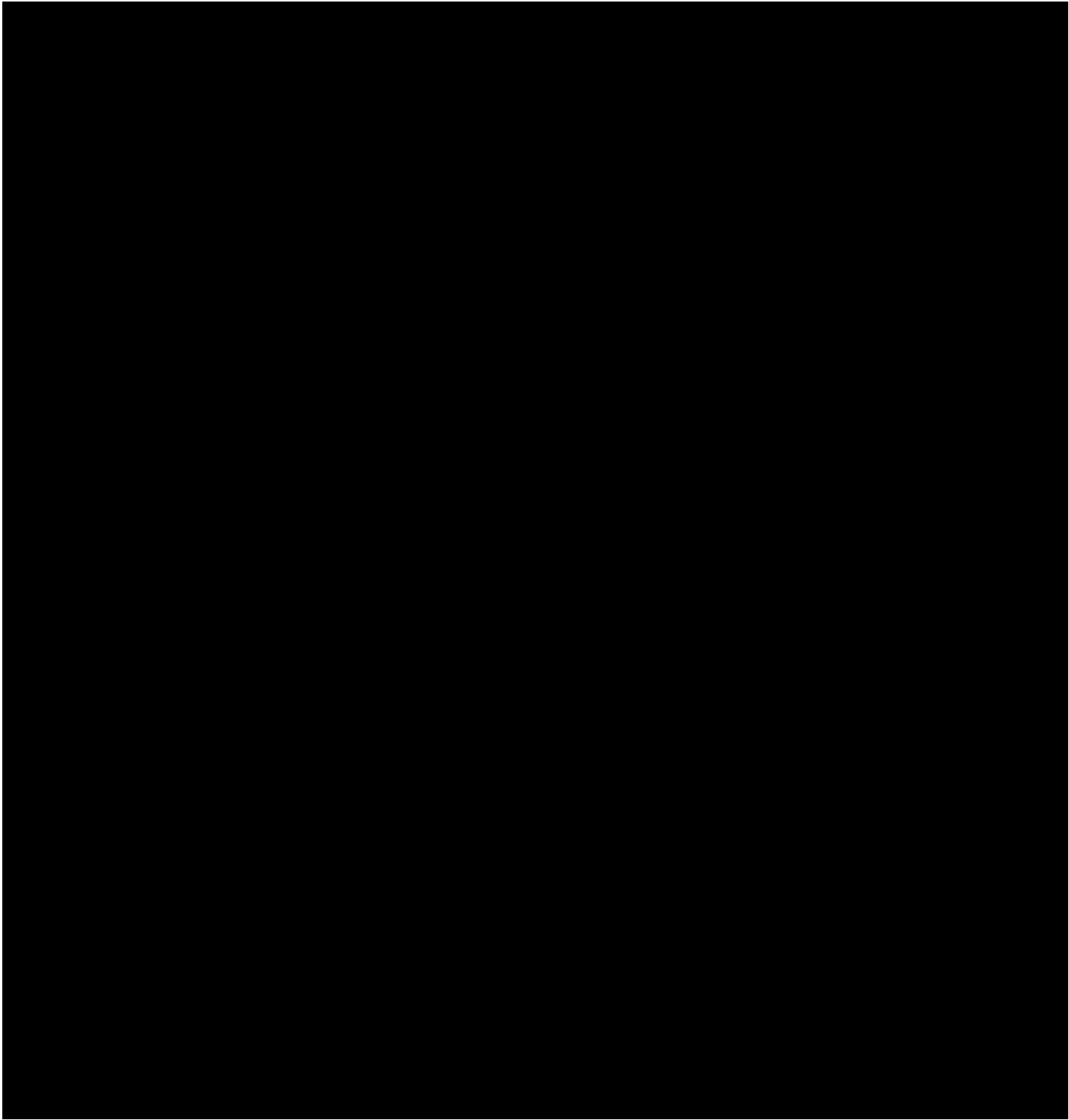
**From:** [Carol Fifield](#)  
**To:** [Taitu Lemessa](#)  
**Date:** Friday, 2 February 2024 9:01:42 am

---

About these newspapers, as a library we don't censor. And the customer has paid for the advertisement.



Withheld as legally privileged



---

**From:** Campbell Barry <x@xx>

**Sent:** Monday, 9 December 2024 12:10 pm

**To:** Tui Lewis <x@xx>; Brady Dyer <Brady.Dyer@huttcity.govt.nz>; Karen Morgan <x@xx>; Glenda Barratt <Glenda.Barratt@huttcity.govt.nz>; Simon Edwards <x@xx>; Chris Parkin <x@xx>; Andy Mitchell <Andy.Mitchell@huttcity.govt.nz>; Josh Briggs <x@xx>; Naomi Shaw <x@xx>; Gabriel Tupou <x@xx>; Keri Brown <x@xxnz>; Tony Stallinger <x@xx>

**Cc:** Bradley Cato <x@xx>

**Subject:** FSU Legal Processings

Kia ora everyone,

I just wanted to give you a heads up that last week we were notified by the Free Speech Union that they would be initiating legal proceedings against Council and Jo Miller in respect to the removal of an insert in the Hutt News, from our libraries, earlier this year.

I've been briefed by legal advisor, Brad Cato, who will also brief the Mayor & Chairs group this afternoon.

It appears the FSU put out a media release this morning on this matter, so I wanted to make sure you had a heads up prior to anything appearing in the media.

We are also arranging for Brad to brief everyone, possibly after council tomorrow — but I just want to make sure this will work.

If you have any urgent questions, please don't hesitate to contact me — and if you are contacted by media or anyone else, please refer them onto my office as well.

Thanks

Campbell

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**From:** [Dave Burgess](#)  
**To:** [Tom Hunt](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Media release: Free Speech Union to sue Hutt City Council over breach of Bill of Rights Act  
**Date:** Monday, 9 December 2024 2:40:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [Letter to FSU re Judicial Review 9 Dec 24.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Here you go Tom.

Please quote a Hutt City Council spokesperson.

We can confirm the Free Speech Union has indicated it will commence legal proceedings today (Monday 9 December) regarding a matter that occurred in February 2024 which was widely reported.

It saw Council staff remove an insert from the Hutt News located in our libraries and other facilities. It occurred without the prior knowledge of the Mayor, Councillors and Chief Executive Jo Miller who was on sick leave at the time.

Council has been conciliatory in its dealings with the FSU over the matter and has directly acknowledged the concerns raised by the group.

We had asked the Free Speech Union (FSU) to delay its action with a view to reaching a satisfactory outcome and prevent legal costs being imposed on Hutt City ratepayers.

The FSU has opted to continue with its proceedings, and Council views the legal proceedings as unnecessary, and a waste of time and ratepayer money given it could have been resolved outside of a formal legal process.

We also acknowledge the provision of equitable access to information is vital and our role is to be gateways rather than gatekeepers of knowledge. It would have been ideal if we had provided a counterbalance to the insert but a lack of time made this challenging. We will bear this in mind for future reference.

The content of Sir Āpirana Ngata's original publication, which was in the insert, is available (on an unlimited basis) free online through Council's library collection. A physical copy is available through our SMART library services.

**//ENDS**

Attached is Council's Legal Response to the FSU Claim

Information about this matter was released by Hutt City Council via the LGOIMA process. Links are below.

[https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/fc39961f534d41c5a38606983a24989b/\\_extinfo/ced5bf321336851bb47d5baccfb6f1ba1d642](https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/fc39961f534d41c5a38606983a24989b/_extinfo/ced5bf321336851bb47d5baccfb6f1ba1d642)

[https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/fc39961f534d41c5a38606983a24989b/\\_extinfo/6d194dcc134474d80413e85c76d126260f525](https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/fc39961f534d41c5a38606983a24989b/_extinfo/6d194dcc134474d80413e85c76d126260f525)

[https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/fc39961f534d41c5a38606983a24989b/\\_extinfo/f250b6f6134387f0740d883d4a2ea24e5a9a3](https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/fc39961f534d41c5a38606983a24989b/_extinfo/f250b6f6134387f0740d883d4a2ea24e5a9a3)

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**From:** Tom Hunt <xxx.xxx@xxxx.xx.xx>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 8:15 AM  
**To:** Dave Burgess <xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Media release: Free Speech Union to sue Hutt City Council over breach of Bill of Rights Act

On Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 8:09 AM Dave Burgess <xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xx> wrote:

Hey Tom

I'll see what I can find out.

**Dave Burgess**

Senior Media Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

**P:** M: [REDACTED] **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** Tom Hunt <[xxx.xxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxx.xxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 7:45 AM

**To:** Dave Burgess <[xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Media release: Free Speech Union to sue Hutt City Council over breach of Bill of Rights Act

Hi Dave,

The Free Speech Union says it is suing Hutt City and Jo Miller - see below.

Just checking that this has in fact happen (ie has the council been officially notified) and if I can get a statement about it?

Cheers

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Nadia Braddon-Parsons** <[xxxxx@xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xx)>

**Date:** Mon, Dec 9, 2024 at 5:00 AM

**Subject:** Media release: Free Speech Union to sue Hutt City Council over breach of Bill of Rights Act

**To:**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

09 December 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Free Speech Union to sue Hutt City Council over breach of Bill of Rights Act**

Today, the Free Speech Union will sue both Hutt City Council and its Chief Executive, Jo Miller (in her personal capacity), after they censored an insert at Council libraries and information centres, breaching Hutt City residents' freedom of expression, says Jonathan Ayling, Chief Executive of the Free Speech Union.

“Last year, the Hutt City Council removed a paid advertisement inserted in newspapers from all council sites. We believe this is an unlawful act that flies in the face of ratepayers’ speech rights.

“The insert was from *‘Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation’* by Sir Āpirana Ngata and was published in 31 NZME and Stuff newspapers by the New Zealand Centre for Political Research (NZCPR).

“We’ve attempted to communicate with Miller and the Council to find a resolution, but it’s fallen on deaf ears. So now we are taking action.

“Hutt City’s reasons for banning it from its premises were that it *“spread a very particular political viewpoint”* and was *“viewed as spreading misinformation”*.

“We simply cannot have local councils and bureaucrats dictating what information ratepayers do and don't consume. It's as simple as that.

“Hutt City ratepayers deserve to think for themselves, and the Council has a responsibility to uphold free speech under the Bill of Rights Act. We’re ensuring that the Council and Chief Executive are held accountable.

“Over and over again, we see bureaucrats thinking they can cherry-pick the information others can access. It’s time to set a new precedent. Ratepayers deserve better.”

ENDS

Note to editor – please see attached the complaint to be filed in



the High Court.

Media contact – Jonathan Ayling 021 842 215, [xxxxxxxx@xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx@xxx.xx)

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**From:** [Dave Burgess](#)  
**To:** [CLT](#); [Senior Leader Group](#); [CorporateCommunications](#); [Engagement Team](#); [C&EProjects](#)  
**Cc:** [Adrienne Moor](#); [Amanda Rhodes](#); [Megan Connew-Simmons](#); [Angela Gordon](#); [Cam Kapua-Morrell](#); [Kelly-Anne Robertson](#); [Mike Nuth](#); [Jake Davis](#); [Nathan Geard](#); [Rachel Houlbrooke](#); [Orla Harkin](#); [Eddie Anand](#); [Strategy and Policy](#); [Neil Cole](#)  
**Subject:** Media Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, 10 December 2024 8:36:53 am  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.png](#)  
[The Post. Free Speech Union suing Hutt City Council.docx](#)  
[The Post. Capital shown how to do big projects well.docx](#)  
[The Post. Sorry not enough for Wellington man let off \\$20 parking fine.docx](#)  
[The Post. Wellington's property market battles headwinds in 2024.docx](#)

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Good morning

Here's the Media Report for Tuesday 10 December 2024.

### Hutt City Council in the media

- The Post (Tom Hunt) reports the [Free Speech Union are suing Hutt City Council](#) (and attached).
- The Post (Tom Hunt) reports that [Sorry not enough for Wellington man let off \\$20 parking fine](#) (and attached).
- The Post opinion (Dave Armstrong) reports that the [Capital shown how to do big projects well](#) through our Te Ngaengae Pool (and attached).
- NewstalkZB News reports on a proposed Juicy Fest liquor ban [Week on Demand - NewstalkZB](#) (select Wellington, Monday 9/12/24, 10am. Story starts at 2m 47s).

### HCC Social Media

- Over the weekend, we celebrated the opening of [Te Ngaengae Pool](#) with the community. Lots of fun was had with cake-cutting ceremonies, hydroslide adventures and the bustling Hillary Court street market.
- A date has been set for the opening of the [Avalon Skatepark](#) – Midday Tuesday 17 December!
- Our next [car seat clinic](#) is this Thursday from 9:30am to 11am at the Walter Nash Centre. Our car seat technicians will check to see that your child's car seat is fitted properly and will make any adjustments if needed.

### Stories of interest

- The Post (Deb Morris) reports that [Wellington's property market battles headwinds in 2024](#) but Lower Hutt bucks the trend... just (and attached).

**Dave Burgess**  
Senior Media Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010  
**P:** **M:** 027 248 9230 **W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

