

# Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change  
Minister for Energy  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister of Revenue



Andrew Riddell

By email: [fyi-request-29578-f83f9889@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29578-f83f9889@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Andrew,

## Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA24-519

Thank you for your email of 17 December 2024 to Hon Simeon Brown, the former Minister of Local Government, requesting the following under the Official Information Act (the Act):

*In your press release yesterday on proposed changes for local government, you state that "Evidence shows that including the four well-beings in the Act led to about two per cent higher rates growth each year."*

*Please provide this evidence.*

*Further, please provide any cost-benefit analysis you have received on the proposed changes to local government.*

## Response to your request

The Cabinet paper on policy decisions for local government system improvements, and the Regulatory Impact Statement on changes to the purpose of local government, are within scope of your request. This advice considers:

- the relationship between the four aspects of community well-being in the Local Government Act 2002 and property rate increases; and
- some of the costs and benefits of changes to the purpose of local government.

This advice will be published in February 2025 on the Department of Internal Affairs' website at: [www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#LG](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#LG). I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested will soon be publicly available.

## Access to the Ombudsman

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Simon Watts', written over a blue horizontal line.

Hon Simon Watts  
Minister of Local Government