



**Upper Hutt City Council**

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Howard Rait  
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File: 311/04-001

Ref: AJH:KCP

SHED: OIA;RaitH (J1-2,161)

Via email: raitz@xtra.co.nz

8 August 2017

Dear Howard

**RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST**

This letter is in response to your request for information from Upper Hutt City Council (the "Council") received on Monday 31 July 2017 under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the "Act").

I note that you requested the following information from Council:

1. *Has the Upper Hutt City Council in any of its portfolios or in any way have or had anything to do with running or coordinating RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS in the calendar years (Jan – Dec) of 2016 and/or 2017.*

As advised in my letters of 4 May 2017 and 29 May 2017 Council has had no involvement with the RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS project since the final meeting facilitated by Council on 29 October 2015.

2. *When did the UHCC Community Development Team formally end its association with RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS or if it is still engaged with the RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS project and associated agencies, please provide a point of contact and contact details.*
3. *Who or which organisation did the UHCC Community Development Team (or whoever was coordinating the project) pass or hand over the running/coordination of RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS to?*
4. *As at April 2017 was RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS) still a valid project in the Upper Hutt region? If so: Who or which organisation is currently running/coordination RAAYS (or Youth and RAAYS)?*

*Note 1: If it is still a valid project, somebody must know about it and there must be some documentation held by some organisation.*

As advised, Council has had no involvement with RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS since 29 October 2015. At that time there was no transfer of the facilitation role of the Council to any other agency. Council is unaware of any agency that might be co-ordinating RAAYS or Youth and RAAYS now and holds no past or current contact details. As no information is held your request is refused under Section 17 (g) of the Act.

5. Who was (or is) responsible for ensuring schools and agencies were "operating as per the outline of the RAAYS project" when the UHCC was running/coordinating the RAAYS (or Youth and RAAYS) project.

*Note 1: This is a direct quote from the MOU's between the agencies and the school.*

*Note 2: I am asking this question as Fergusson Intermediate School wrote their own policies on how they will use "RAAYS" in 2012 which are not in line with either of the RAAYS MOU's they signed, and as such have been using RAAYS with the UHCC, NZ Police, CYF and Hutt Valley DHB logos for reasons other than truancy.*

*NOTE 3: The information previously provided to myself by the UHCC regarding the RAAYS project/system clearly states "The letters do not replace the regular system that a school has in place for dealing with truancy, such as phone calls, in school support etc", which is not what Ferguson Intermediate School has been doing. They have been using RAAYS as their ONLY system and as I have said previously they have also been using the system for reasons other than truancy.*

There was no one organisation or agency responsible for ensuring the implementation or use of the protocols noted in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the agencies involved in the RAAYS and Youth and RAAYS project. Information regarding how each school or agency implemented those protocols is not information held by Council therefore as no information is held your request is refused under Section 17(g) of the Act.

6. What measures and systems were in place to ensure schools and agencies were "operating as per the outline of the RAAYS project" since its inception and introduction into the Upper Hutt area (Circa March 2012) until it either ceased to be a valid project or present day if it is still a valid project.

*Note 1: This was when the UHCC were running/coordination the RAAYS project.*

During the time that Council was facilitating the project there were no audit measures or systems in place to ensure that schools and agencies were operating as per the protocols of the MOU. As facilitator only the Council was at no time monitoring the MOU.

I believe that this fully satisfies your request for information regarding Council's facilitation of the RAAYS and Youth and RAAYS project. If you are dissatisfied with my response, you are entitled to request that the Ombudsmen review it under Section 27 of the Act. I have provided some of the information requested in your latest request in the previous three responses. If you are dissatisfied with the information provided I recommend that you ask the Ombudsmen to review the Council's responses. I also draw your attention to Section 17 (h) of the Act.

Yours faithfully



Karen Patterson

**Registered Legal Executive**

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