

24 April 2019

File Ref: OIAP-7-10738

Jeff McKenzie
fyi-request-9571-fdc78ba0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr McKenzie

Request for information

I refer to your request for information dated 12 February 2019, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) on 12 February 2019. You have requested the following information:

...copies of all emails, text messages and instant messages sent or received by the Chief Executive and/or the General Manager, Public Transport Group regarding the new Wellington bus network.

To make this request manageable, I limit the scope to:

- *Between the dates of 16/7/2018 to 30/7/2018*
- *Only to/from GWRC staff and councillors*

Greater Wellington Regional Council's decision follows.

The text messages sent or received by Mr Campbell and Mr Hastie regarding the Wellington bus network for the period 16 July 2018 to 30 July 2018 do not exist. GWRC has asked Vodafone if these text messages can be recovered. Vodafone advised the duration of retention for their records can be unpredictable, as it is contingent on how the connections have been managed. A SIM card swap or changes to the plan can be sufficient to trigger a data overwrite on historical records.

GWRC believes there is no way that your request can be modified to achieve the requested information. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.



No instant messages concerning school transport were sent or received by Mr Hastie or Mr Campbell during this time period, and I am also refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act.

We have attached the emails we believe fall within scope of your request. In investigating which emails were in scope, we focused on those from GWRC staff and GWRC councillors related to the bus network (for example, performance data, public concerns regarding the effects of route changes, and operational issues such as service cancellations). Emails relating to other issues have therefore not been included. We consider emails where Mr Hastie and/or Mr Campbell were cc'd into an email for their information and did not respond to the original message are out of scope. Internally emailed newsletters to GRWC's Public Transport unit have also not been included.

In the instance where Mr Hastie and Mr Campbell received several iterations of an email trail, only the last email, containing the full trail, has been included, unless several versions are required for clarity.

A list of all documents which we are releasing to you is attached (document 1 refers). We have withheld information in accordance with the following sections of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act):

- Section 7(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- Section 7(2)(b)(ii), as it would be likely to unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;
- Section 7(2)(f)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through...the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority...in the course of their duty;
- and Section 7(i), as it may enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

The attached list notates the relevant section of the Act under which information was withheld, for each specific document.

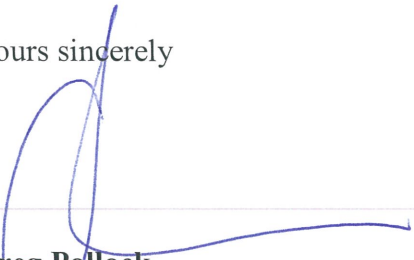
To clarify information released or withheld under section 7(2)(a), we decided release in full the names and contact details of GWRC officials and employees. We have released the names of councillors and their GWRC email addresses; their personal email addresses and other contact details have been withheld. Names and contact details of Members of Parliament and councillors from other councils have been released where relevant. The names and contact details of members of the public and employees of bus operators and other companies have been withheld.

Where information has been withheld in this response, we have considered whether the public interest in the requested documents outweighs GWRC's need to withhold certain aspects. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest in this information outweighs GWRC's reason for withholding the documents under the grounds identified above.

Several documents also contain information has been deleted on the basis that it is not relevant or does not fall within the scope of your request. This is also marked accordingly on the attached document list.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Greg Pollock
General Manager, Public Transport

