



17 March 2026

Tom Fraser

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Tom,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 24 February 2026, seeking information relating to Council’s interactions, investments, partnerships, and relationships involving entities from the People’s Republic of China. In response to your questions about this topic, you requested:

- 1. All information from 1 January 2025 relating to any actual or proposed investment, funding, financial contributions, joint ventures, property acquisitions, infrastructure projects, grants, sponsorships, or other financial interests involving the Government of the People’s Republic of China, Chinese state-owned entities, Chinese private sector companies, organisations linked to the Chinese Communist Party’s United Front system, or subsidiaries acting on behalf of any of these.*
- 2. All related correspondence, briefings, reports, contracts, memoranda of understanding, meeting minutes, risk assessments, due diligence materials, and internal communications.*
- 3. All details of any “friendship”, sister city, partnership, cooperation agreement, memorandum of understanding, or similar relationship between Council and any city, province, or local government entity in the People’s Republic of China, including agreements, renewals, correspondence, programme details, financial commitments, delegation visits, and internal assessments.*



Answer:

In response to your questions about investment from the People's Republic of China, Council has no information within the timeframe of your request relating to any actual or proposed investment, funding arrangements, financial contributions, joint ventures, property acquisitions, infrastructure projects, sponsorships, or other financial interests involving the Government of the People's Republic of China, Chinese state owned entities, Chinese private sector companies, organisations linked to the Chinese Communist Party's United Front system, or any subsidiaries or intermediaries acting on behalf of any of those entities.

There is also no information for the period from 1 January 2025 to the date of this response that relates to correspondence, briefings, reports, contracts, memoranda of understanding, meeting minutes, risk assessments, due diligence material, or internal communications involving those types of investment matters. Council therefore refuses these parts of your request under section 17(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

In response to your questions about formal or informal relationships with cities or local government bodies in the People's Republic of China, Council currently has three formalised relationships: a Sister City relationship with Taizhou, a Friendly City relationship with Xi'an, and a Cooperative Regional Relationship with Zhejiang Province.

Although these relationships are in place, Council does not actively maintain them. There is no staff resource currently assigned to administering, coordinating, or developing these relationships, and as a result Council does not hold information within the timeframe of your request such as agreements, programme or delegation details, correspondence, internal assessments, or financial commitments. For this reason, Council is also refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act because the information does not exist.

Please note, in preparing this response, Council used an AI-assisted search tool to review our internal files for any information falling within the scope of your request. This reflects that Council does not currently have staff roles responsible

for managing our Sister City, Friendly City, or Cooperative Regional relationships, and we do not have staff with knowledge of past arrangements. Because of this, we are not in a position to verify the completeness or accuracy of historical information that may exist outside the records captured through this search.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [Office of the Ombudsman - Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases - Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R van der Splinter', written in a cursive style.

Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy