



24 March 2026

Andrea Vance
andrea.vance@stuff.co.nz

Tēnā koe Andrea,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 25 February 2026, seeking communications between Tiaki Wai and Council. Specifically, you requested:

“All communications between Will Peet, in his capacity as chair of Tiaki Wai, and the Mayor and Chief Executive since 1 January 2026. This includes emails, text messages, instant messages such as WhatsApp or Signal, letters, attachments, draft documents and internal briefings referring to or summarising such communications”.

On 27 February 2026 we contacted you to clarify the scope of your request, given the range of communication types listed. You confirmed later that day that you wished to proceed with the original wording.

Answer:

Before responding to your request, it is important to note that Council does not routinely create or retain records of text messages, instant messages (such as WhatsApp, Signal or Teams chats), or other transient communication formats unless they are proactively saved into Council’s systems by staff.

These platforms are not used for formal engagement with external parties in the ordinary course of business, and no such records have been identified for the purposes of your request.

In response to the remainder of your request, we have identified one email that falls within scope. This is an email sent by Will Peet, as Chair of Tiaki Wai, to the Mayor on 9 February 2026, together with the internal forwards of that email within Council. A copy of the email thread is attached. Please note, some information has been withheld under the following provisions of the LGOIMA:

- section 7(2)(a) – to protect personal privacy,
- section 7(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where release would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, and
- section 7(2)(f)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of free and frank expressions of opinion.

Council has considered whether the public interest in release of the withheld information outweighs the need to withhold it and has concluded that it does not.

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



Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

 Outlook

Fwd: Upcoming Tiaki Wai discussions

From Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>

Date Mon 09/02/2026 08:56

To Jenny Livschitz <Jenny.Livschitz@huttcity.govt.nz>; Sarah Gardner <Sarah.Gardner@huttcity.govt.nz>; Hamish Bell <Hamish.Bell@huttcity.govt.nz>

We can discuss this later . Thanks jo

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ken Laban <Ken.Laban@huttcity.govt.nz>

Date: 9 February 2026 at 8:24:09 AM NZDT

To: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>, Simon Edwards <Simon.Edwards@huttcity.govt.nz>, Keri Brown <Keri.Brown@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: Fw: Upcoming Tiaki Wai discussions

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Ken Laban

Mayor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5010

P: **M:** **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



Resident Satisfaction Survey
Have your say on our city!

[Click here to find out more](#)

HUTT CITY
TE AWA KAIRANGI

From: William Peet s7(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:19:49 AM

To: Ken Laban <Ken.Laban@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: Upcoming Tiaki Wai discussions

You don't often get email from william.peet@kahanui.co.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987

Kia ora Ken

Thank you and your team for keeping the line open to Tiaki Wai as we get down to the detail.

Although no-one needed it, the Moa Point failure gives us another example of the criticality of our water infrastructure and the devastating consequences when things go wrong. The response is well underway and I take my hat off to Mayor Little and the wider team for the outstanding communications with the community. We will be closely engaged in the investigation and the implications for other treatment plants.

The Board is pleased with the progress being made with establishment. We are planning to start consultation on the Water Services Strategy (WSS) and Customer Charter from 25 March and councils will be making decisions on transfer agreements over the coming months.

At the same time, the detailed work on the WSS and financials is surfacing challenges. As we discussed before Christmas, it is clear that the starting position for Tiaki Wai will be difficult, with real affordability implications for some of our customers in coming years. s7(2)(b)(i)

s7(2)(b)(ii)

s7(2)(f)(i)

s7(2)(f)(i)

I want to be sure you and your Elected Members are fully informed and have the opportunity to discuss this challenging position, and what it will mean for households, businesses and communities across our takiwā.

The Tiaki Wai team has been working with council staff to set up briefings in the next couple of weeks, to bring your Elected Members up to date. We will cover progress to date, key decisions that councils and Tiaki Wai need to make, what communities can expect to see and hear in the lead up to 1 July, and the financial situation.

I look forward to the discussions at these briefings, and as always I am available should you want to have a one-on-one conversation beforehand.

Please keep in touch.

Nga mihi,

Will Peet

Chair, Tiaki Wai

s7(2)(a)

RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987