



16 October 2024

Gwynn Compton

Dear Gwynn Compton

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

We refer to your email dated 11 October 2024 requesting information. We will answer each of your questions in turn.

- **What is your council's current policy in relation to whether elected member workshops and briefings are open to the public?**

All briefings are open to the public, except in cases where exclusion is warranted under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

- **Did your council open up, or is it in the process of opening up, these workshops and briefings to be "open to the public by default" in line with the Ombudsman's recommendations in his "Open for Business" report of October 2023?**

Council has been opening briefings for several years prior to the Chief Ombudsman's investigation into Council meetings and workshops published in October 2023.

In November 2023, officers reported to the Audit and Risk Subcommittee that from 2019 to November 2023, Council had held 148 open briefings and seven closed briefings. Officers can confirm that in the 2024 calendar year to date, Council has held 17 open briefings and two closed briefings.

- **If you have opened up, or are intending to open up, these workshops and briefings to the public, how are you doing so? (e.g. internet livestreaming, public attendance in person, after the fact video or audio recordings" etc)**

Notifications for Council briefings are published on Council's website [here](#), and the public can attend open briefings in person. Notes and presentations from Council



open briefings are published on Council's website [here](#). Additionally, audio recordings are available on request.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link: www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases

Yours sincerely

Philip Rossiter

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