



2 April 2024

Frank Newman

frank@newman.co.nz

Dear Frank Newman

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

We refer to your official information request dated 27 February 2024 for:

please provide a copy of the internal communication between Council management and staff that directed staff to remove the publication "The Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation" by Sir Apirana Ngata from council premises.

In addition to the above, please provide a copy of all (if any) internal communications between yourself and your staff, or between your management and council staff, concerning "The Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation" by Sir Apirana Ngata.

Response:

Please find attached documents related to your request. Some Information has been withheld under section 7(2) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

We are required under section 7(1) of the Act to consider any public interest in releasing the Information we have decided to withhold. In this case, we do not believe there are any public interest issues.

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.



Yours sincerely

Philip Rossiter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Michelle Palmer](#)
Cc: [Frances Gregory](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT - Action required
Date: Friday, 2 February 2024 11:06:29 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[IMG2HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5.png.png](#)
[IMG3WaterRestrictions-EmailBanner-Level2.png.png](#)

Thanks Michelle,

I can also now confirm that Wainuiomata and Moerā have removed the insert too.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

P: M: [REDACTED] **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



From: Michelle Palmer <Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 11:05 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Frances Gregory <Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: URGENT - Action required

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Awesome work, thank you.

Really appreciate your rapid responsiveness to getting this out late yest, and coordinating removal.

Thanks

Michelle

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 9:44 AM

To: Michelle Palmer <Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: URGENT - Action required

Kia ora Michelle,

I have had confirmation of removal from the following sites so far:

- Eastbourne Neighbourhood Hub
- War Memorial Library
- Naenae Neighbourhood Hub
- Kōraunui Neighbourhood Hub
- Petone Neighbourhood Hub
- Walter Nash Centre

I will follow up with Wainuiomata and Moerā now.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

P: M: [REDACTED] **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



From: Michelle Palmer <Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 8:03 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: URGENT - Action required

Morena!

Could you please let me know when you've had confirmation back from the libraries and hubs and I'll let Jarred know

Thanks

M

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:07 PM

To: Neighborhood Hub Managers <pouwhakahaere@huttcity.govt.nz>

Cc: Joann Ransom <Joann.Ransom@huttcity.govt.nz>; Frances Gregory <Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz>; Michelle Palmer <Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: URGENT - Action required

Importance: High

Kia ora everyone,

It has been brought to our attention that there is racist and upsetting insert that refers to Te Tiriti in the current issue of the Hutt News.

This insert is not in line with Hutt City Council values, so please make sure you **remove this from every available copy immediately.**

Can you please reply to this email with confirmation this has been actioned in your Hub.

Thanks in advance,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communications Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010

P: M: [REDACTED] **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz





Philip Rossiter

From: Information Requests
Subject: FW: Removal of insert from Hutt News

From: Frances Gregory <Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:05 AM
To: Jarred Griffiths <Jarred.Griffiths@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Removal of insert from Hutt News
Sure thing! See attached.

Thank you.
Ngā mihi,
Frances

Frances Gregory
Communications Lead

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010
P: M: [REDACTED] **W:** www.huttcity.govt.nz



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Wellington Water | Hutt City | [Click to learn more](#)

2

No sprinklers or irrigation.
Only water your garden by hand.

From: Jarred Griffiths <Jarred.Griffiths@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:56 AM
To: Frances Gregory <Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz>; Michelle Palmer <Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Kia ora,
Yup, I can. Can you flick through what [REDACTED] sent to the hubs teams please?
Ngā mihi,

Jarred Griffiths (He/Him)
Kaihautū Rautaki me ngā Hononga | Director Strategy and Engagement
[REDACTED]
huttcity.govt.nz
> Sent from my mobile

From: Frances Gregory <Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:44:30 AM
To: Michelle Palmer <Michelle.Palmer@huttcity.govt.nz>; Jarred Griffiths <Jarred.Griffiths@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Kia ora team,
See below from Jo – I wasn't part of this process/decision. Could one of you please go back to her?
Thank you!
Ngā mihi,
Frances
[REDACTED]

Frances Gregory
Communications Lead

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010
P: M: [REDACTED] W: www.huttcity.govt.nz



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2

No sprinklers or irrigation.
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From: Joann Ransom <Joann.Ransom@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 4:37 PM
To: Andrea Blackshaw <Andrea.Blackshaw@huttcity.govt.nz>; Frances Gregory <Frances.Gregory@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: Removal of insert from Hutt News

Kia ora Andrea and Frances,
I am writing this email to you on behalf of my staff who, like me, are disturbed Council is censoring information that is held in our hubs in the process of delivering library services.
LIANZA, the professional voice of librarians in NZ, have a [statement](#) on censorship which I feel the need to show you. Yesterday my staff were asked by [REDACTED] to remove an insert from the Hutt News that went against our professional roles as librarians. Local newspapers, like the Hutt News, are external publications we make available to our customers. We can't and should not control what's in the Hutt News.
Our role is to provide equitable access to information – unless it has been ruled illegal. Should we now also remove Mein Kampf from our collections? Should we stop providing internet access so customers can't go down rabbit holes and join QAnon? Where will it end?
Our mission as libraries is to be gateways to knowledge, rather than gatekeepers, supporting the intellectual freedom which is vital for both individual and societal development, innovation creativity, and the realisation of human rights.
Yesterday's actions did not align with our professional ethics and I would be reluctant to see my staff placed in that position again hence this email.
Nga mihi
Jo.

Joann Ransom
Head Of Neighbourhood Hubs & Library Services

Hutt City Council, 2 Queens Drive, Hutt Central, Lower Hutt 5010
P: M: [REDACTED] W: www.huttcity.govt.nz

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