



21 November 2025

Daniel Chrisp

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Daniel,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 23 October 2025, seeking information about the decision to close and reopen the hill road due to wind conditions. Specifically, you requested:

- 1. Decision to close Wainuiomata Hill 23/10 - I am requesting all emails relating to this decision.*
- 2. And I would like a full timeline of events and conversations regarding this decision on the day. Including wind gust speeds recorded and at what time.*
 - The timeline should include a summary of phone calls during that timeline eg "wremo controller spoke to Mayor about wind speeds and confirmed decision to close hill" I don't expect full transcripts. I want to know specifically what other options were discussed to avoid the hill road closure including police and traffic management to monitor speeds over the hill.*
- 3. I would like the timeline of information and events to include from the moment monitoring of the hill winds started, through till the closure decision being made and then through to the re-opening decision being made.*
- 4. I would like the timeline of information and events to include from the moment monitoring of the hill winds started, through till the closure*



decision being made and then through to the re-opening decision being made.

Answer:

In response to your request for emails, we have confirmed that no emails were sent in relation to this decision. Communication occurred either by phone calls or through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) event and function logs. These logs record the operational communication and decision-making that took place during the severe wind event. A copy of these logs is attached to this response.

Regarding your request for a full timeline, Council staff monitored weather conditions leading up to the Red Wind Warning, planned for the possibility of a closure, and implemented the required safety measures on the day. Live observations from staff on the summit of the hill indicated that wind conditions had reached a point where there was a serious risk to motorists due to debris being blown across the road and sudden, severe gusts. The decision to close the road was made based on these real-time assessments. Once conditions eased later in the afternoon, staff confirmed that it was safe to reopen the road.

For ease of reference, we have provided a consolidated bullet-point timeline below. This includes monitoring activity, operational discussions, wind readings, the closure and reopening decisions, and the options considered before the road was closed:

20–22 October (Pre-event planning and monitoring)

- Initial planning discussions held regarding the potential for dangerous winds on the hill.
- Emergency services consulted on possible temporary isolation if the hill needed to close.
- 22 October: Red Wind Warning issued forecasting gusts of 140–150 km/h.
- Senior Council leadership briefed on risks and contingency planning.

- Public messaging and safety measures prepared, including reducing the speed limit to 50 km/h and advising motorcyclists and high-sided vehicles not to travel.

23 October – Monitoring and decision to close

- 8:00am – Emergency Operations Centre activated.
- 10:28am – Operations staff deployed to assess conditions on the hill.
- 10:46am – Field team sent to summit to monitor wind speeds.
- Shortly before 11:30am – Phone call from staff on the hill reported severe conditions, including debris being blown across the road.
- 11:33am – The following information was shared with the HCC Emergency Management group (the field team had reported these conditions earlier):
 - Approximately 90 km/h sustained winds
 - Gusts up to 120 km/h
 - Bushes and debris being ripped from the hillside
- Around 11:30am – Based on these conditions, the decision was made to close the road due to the risk to motorists.
- Approximately 11:28am – EOC log records the road as closed.
- Public messaging issued and emergency services, contractors, and leadership notified.

Before the decision was made to close the road, staff considered a range of measures to manage the conditions, including maintaining a reduced speed limit, advising high-risk vehicle types such as motorcyclists and high-sided vehicles not to travel, increasing monitoring on the hill, and seeking Police or traffic management support. Council also ensured that emergency services would continue to have access to Wainuiomata if required.

While these measures were put in place, they were assessed as no longer sufficient once wind conditions escalated to the point of posing an immediate risk to motorists. An accident or incident on the Wainuiomata Hill Road would have unnecessarily risked the lives of emergency responders and reduced their capability to respond to other incidents that may have arisen.

During the afternoon, staff continued to monitor the conditions to determine when it would be safe to reopen the road. Planning for a possible reopening began at 1:45pm, with an initial reassessment scheduled for 2:30pm. At 2:20pm, the field team reported that conditions had worsened, and the reassessment was delayed until 3:00pm. At that time, wind conditions were reported to have eased, and staff determined that the road could safely reopen at 3:30pm. Public notifications were issued, and the Emergency Operations Centre log records the road as fully open by 3:42pm.

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

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Event and Function Logs – 23 October 2025

Entry ID	Entry Type	Date and Time	Category	Details	Priority	Remarks/Actions Taken
1036	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 15:42	Information	Wainuiomata Hill fully open	Low	Cambridge is just about finished
1035	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 15:33	Information	Fallen trees in Stokes Valley and Cambridge Terrace	Low	August Street all cleared
1032	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 15:10	Decision	Wainuiomata hill opens @ 3.30pm	Medium	Hill opens at slow speed over until tomorrow
1025	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 14:23	Decision	Wainuiomata Hill being reassessed for opening around 3.30pm	Medium	
1023	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 14:00	Decision	Wainuiomata Hill	Medium	@.30 will open Hill and reduced speed until tomorrow
1019	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 13:12	Information	Status Report	Low	Sent to Intell @ 1.10pm
1013	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 12:59	Request	363 Cambridge terrace tree blocking the road and trucks and buses hitting it	Medium	Josef calling treescape for removal
1010	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 12:20	Request	Tree across 19 August Street Stokes Valley	High	Treescape have been notified to attend
1009	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 12:18	Request	Traffic breaching the Road closure on the Wainuiomata side	High	Kara talked to Fulton Hogan are trying to plug the hole so traffic can not breach the closure
1008	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 12:14	Request	Kara asked the Police to assist with monitoring traffic congestion.	Medium	Police will active monitoring traffic at Waiwhetu
1007	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 12:04	Decision	Traffic banked up Waiwhetu shops waiting to get over the Wainuiomata Hill	Medium	Kara will contact he police to assist with informing the drivers of the detours and wait time for the opening of the Hill.
1004	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 11:54	Decision	WE crew heading to Gracefield Road with a spare crew. Will head over to Wainuiomata if	Medium	
1001	Function Log	23/10/2025 11:53	Information	Metlink have been notified, doing a loop service in Wainuiomata buses and they are trying to sort out the Queensgate run	Medium	Metlink have been notified, doing a loop service in Wainuiomata buses and they are trying to sort out the Queensgate run,
1000	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 11:33	Information	Josef Talked to WE about the closure of Wainuiomata Hill. They have a crew already in Wainuiomata if needed	Medium	Josef talked to WE about the closure of Wainuiomata Hill. They have a crew already in Wainuiomata if needed.
999	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 11:30	Request	requested Fulton Hogan to close the Wainuiomata Hill now 11.30am	High	Requested Fulton Hogan to close the Wainuiomata Hill now 11.30am
998	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 11:28	Information	Informed ECC Wellington of the closure of Wainuiomata hill and asked them to let FENZ know that they will have access if required	High	Informed ECC Wellington of the closure of Wainuiomata hill and asked them to let FENZ know that they will have access if required
994	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 10:50	Information	Tree has been removed from Marine Parade Road is clear	Low	
993	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 10:49	Request	Kara Colins talking to FH around standby for closure of Wainuiomata Hill	Medium	
992	Event AND Function Log	23/10/2025 10:46	Request	Request RT18 to go to the top of the Wainuiomata hill with an update wind data	Medium	Waiting for data for the closure of the Wainuiomata Hill.

RELEASED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987