



25 March 2026

Alastair Hill

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Alastair,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 26 February 2026, seeking all communications between Christopher Milne and elected members of Hutt City Council. Specifically, you requested:

“Any and all communication between Christopher Milne and:

- *All Hutt City Councillors*
- *Mayor*

Between 29 October 2025 and 26 February 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt this includes communication via:

- *Text message*
- *Facebook messenger*
- *WhatsApp*
- *Signal*
- *Any other messaging app*
- *Email*
- *Phone call*
- *Meeting*
- *Conversation*
- *Any other way in which there has been communication*



This must include both Hutt City Council and personal emails, cell phone numbers etc of elected members.”

Answer:

In response to your request, Council approached all elected members to identify any communications within scope. Most elected members advised that they did not have any communications with Christopher Milne during the timeframe of your request. The Mayor also confirmed that no communications took place. Two elected members identified communications that fall within scope.

Councillor Prabha Ravi advised that she received two WhatsApp messages from Christopher Milne on 16 January 2026, which have been provided and are enclosed with this response. She also received a phone call from him on the same day during which he checked in on how she was settling into her role as a new councillor. She described this as a general conversation.

Councillor Tony Stallinger advised that he had no written communications or meetings with Christopher Milne during the period covered by your request. He did recall a total of five phone calls over that time for which no records were kept. He could recall the content of one of those calls, which took place on 23 February 2026. During that call Christopher Milne asked what he thought of the Targeted Operating Model. Councillor Stallinger recalled responding that while some aspects relating to benchmarking could have been done better, he considered the overall approach and work undertaken to be impressive and expected that it would help guide future decision making.

There were no other communications identified as being within scope. As a result, we are refusing the remainder of your request under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA because the information is not held.

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.

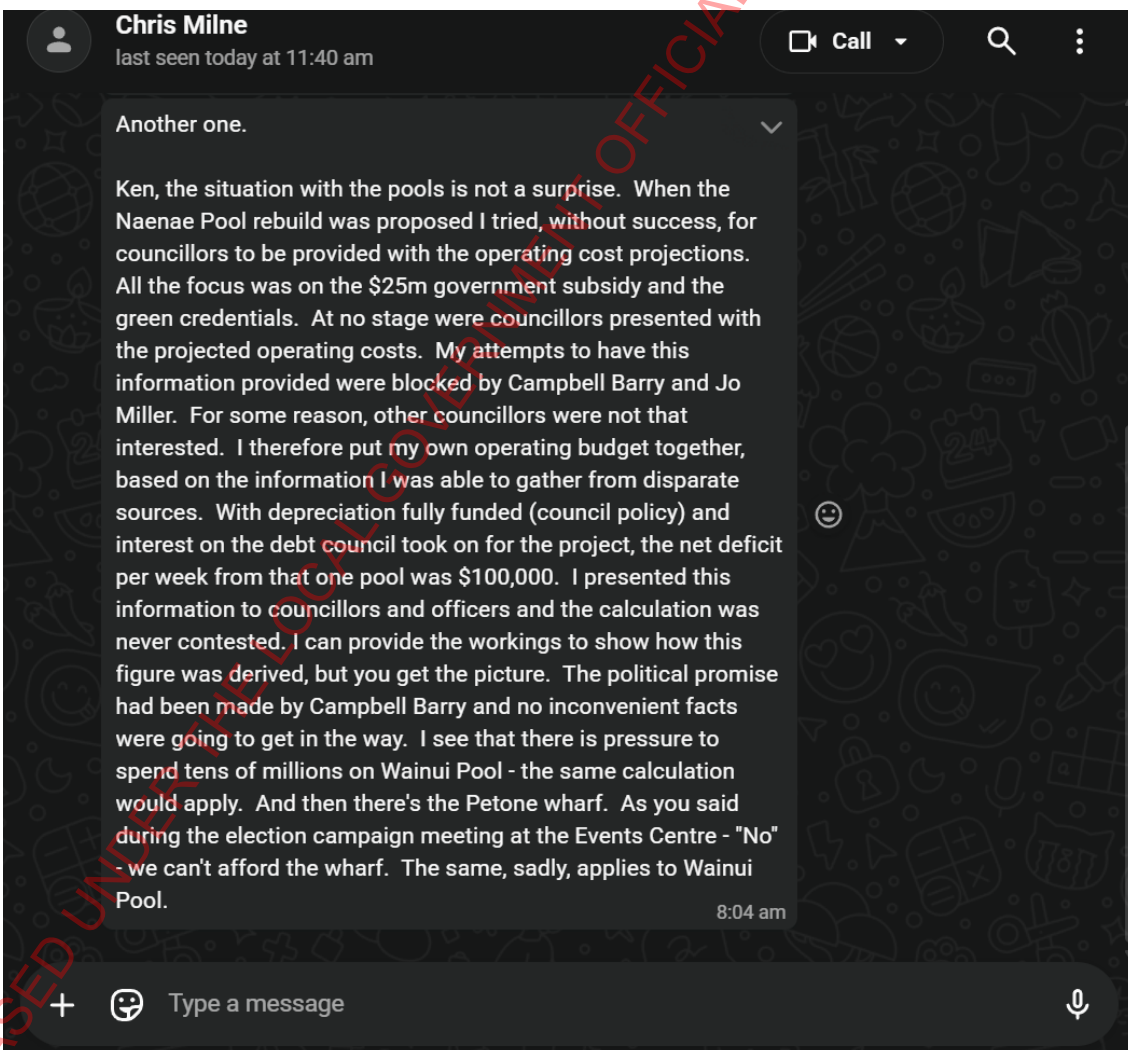
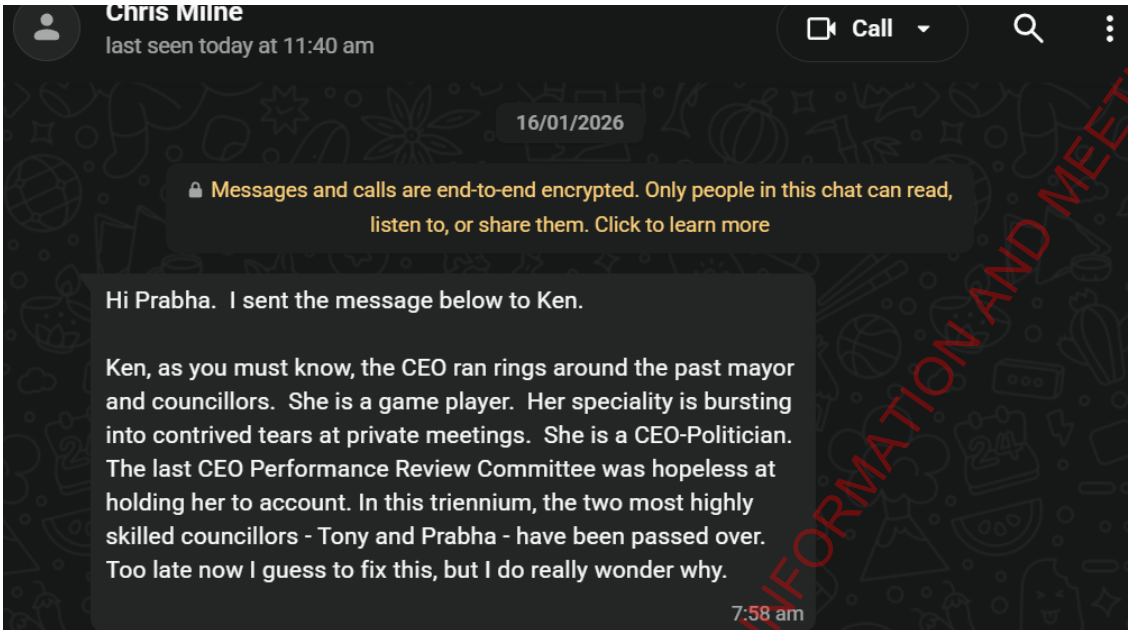
Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases - Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui



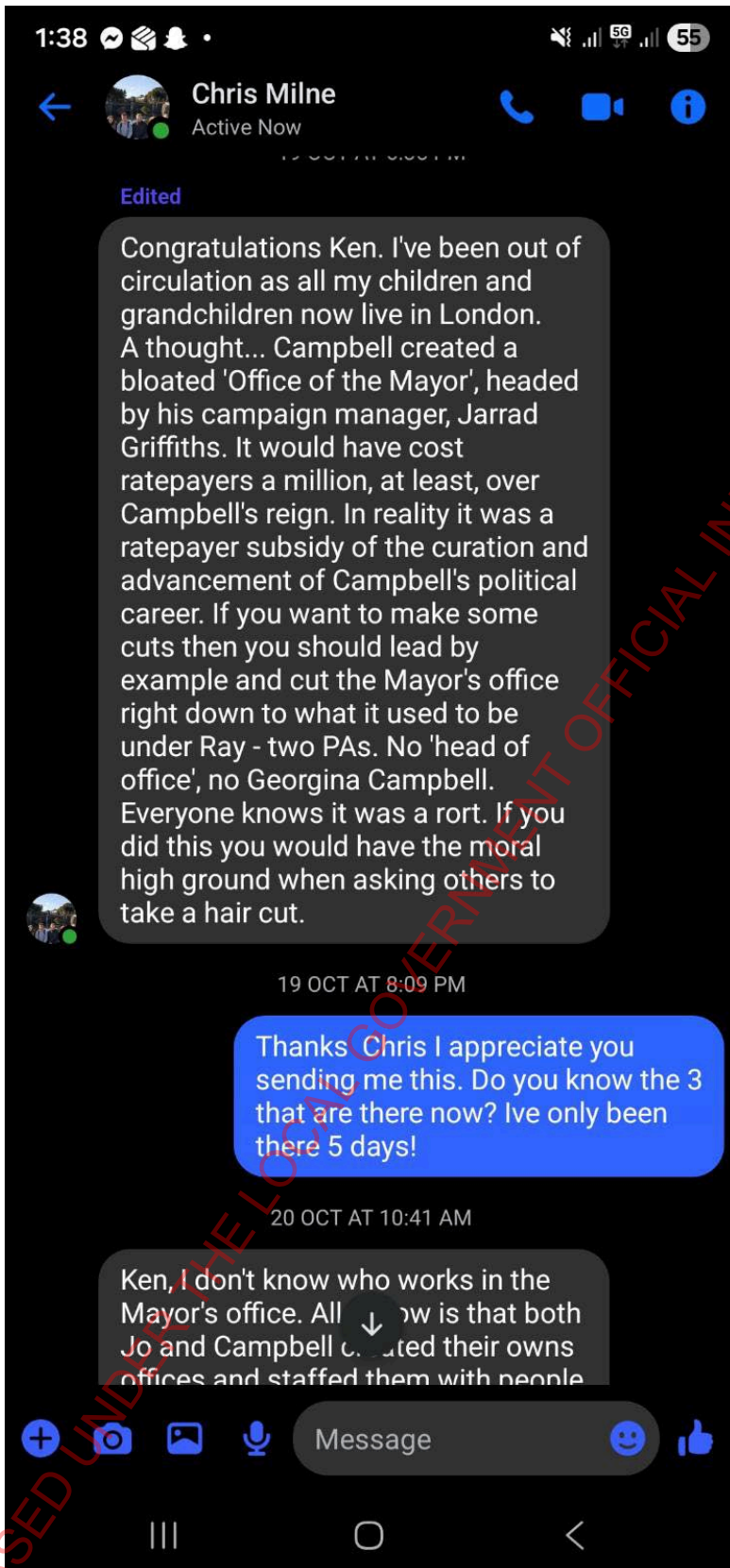
Rebekah van der Splinter
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

16 January 2026 – WhatsApp messages – Christopher Milne to Cr Prabha Ravi



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19 October 2025 to 17 January 2026 – Signal messages between the Mayor and Christopher Milne



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Chris Milne

Active Now



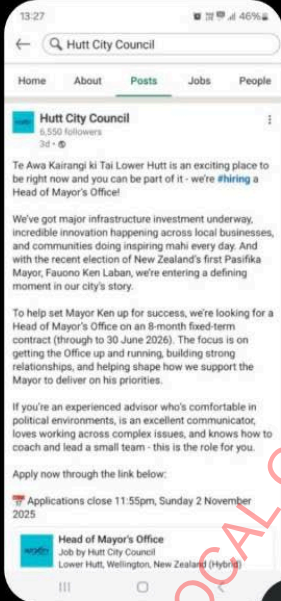
political positions. Jo's office should also be dismantled as part of cost cutting. Both Jo and Campbell took over meeting rooms for this purpose. In Campbell's case an adjacent meeting room was absorbed to his reception area to house the new staff. This cost \$80k \$100k in physical works. I don't know what Jo's works cost.



Tony would obviously be able to tell you how the two offices were run and at what cost prior to the arrival of the new regime.



20 OCT AT 1:31 PM



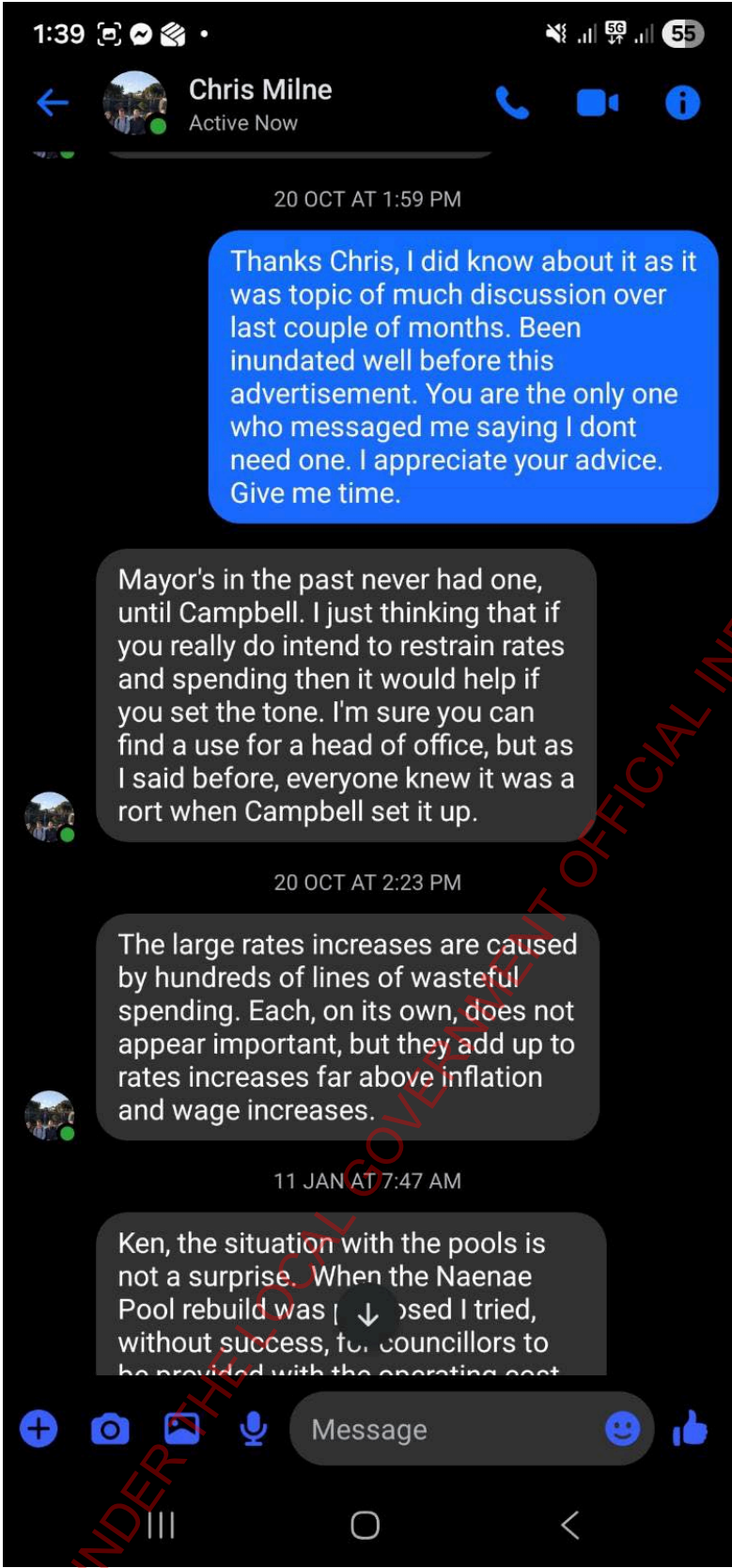
Can this happen without your



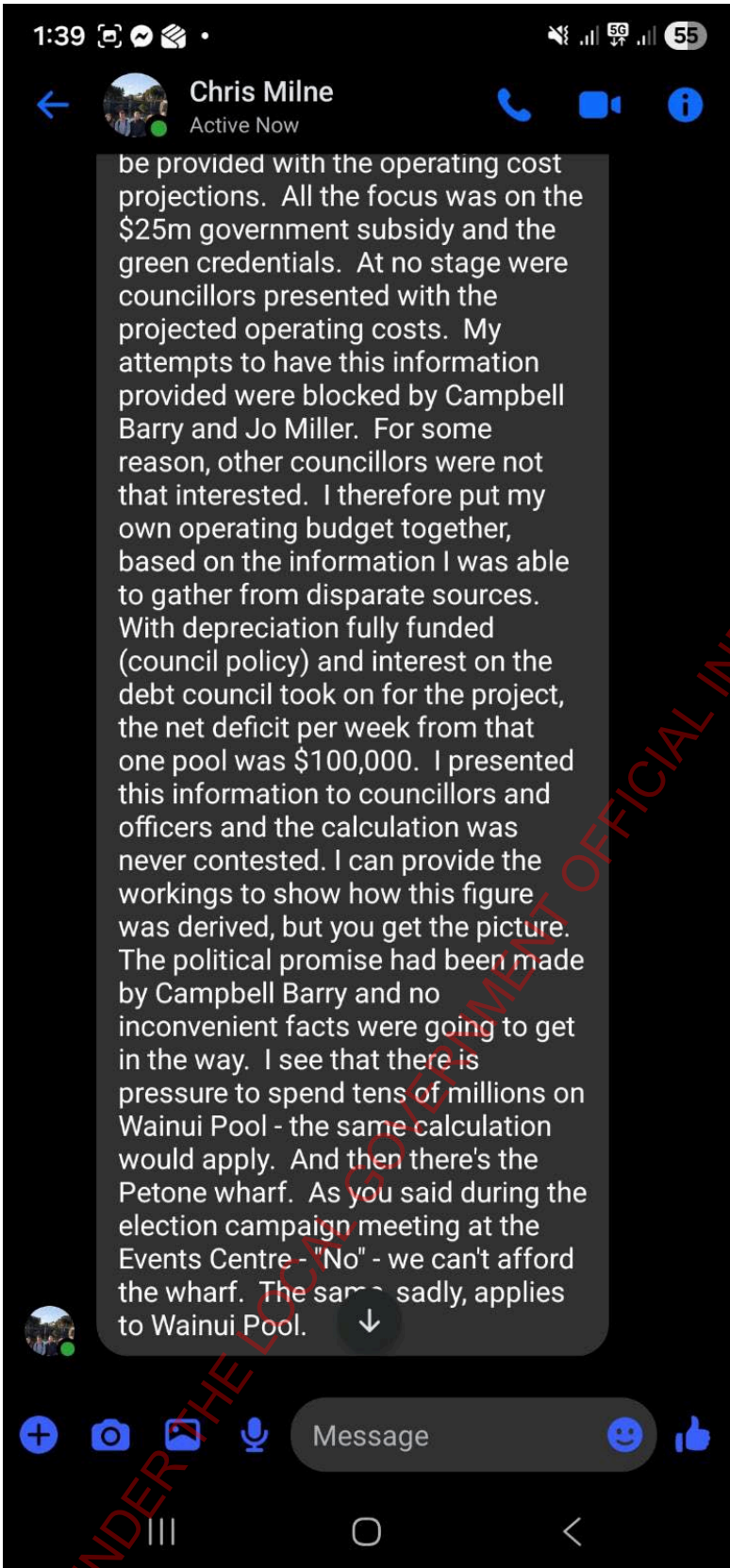
Message



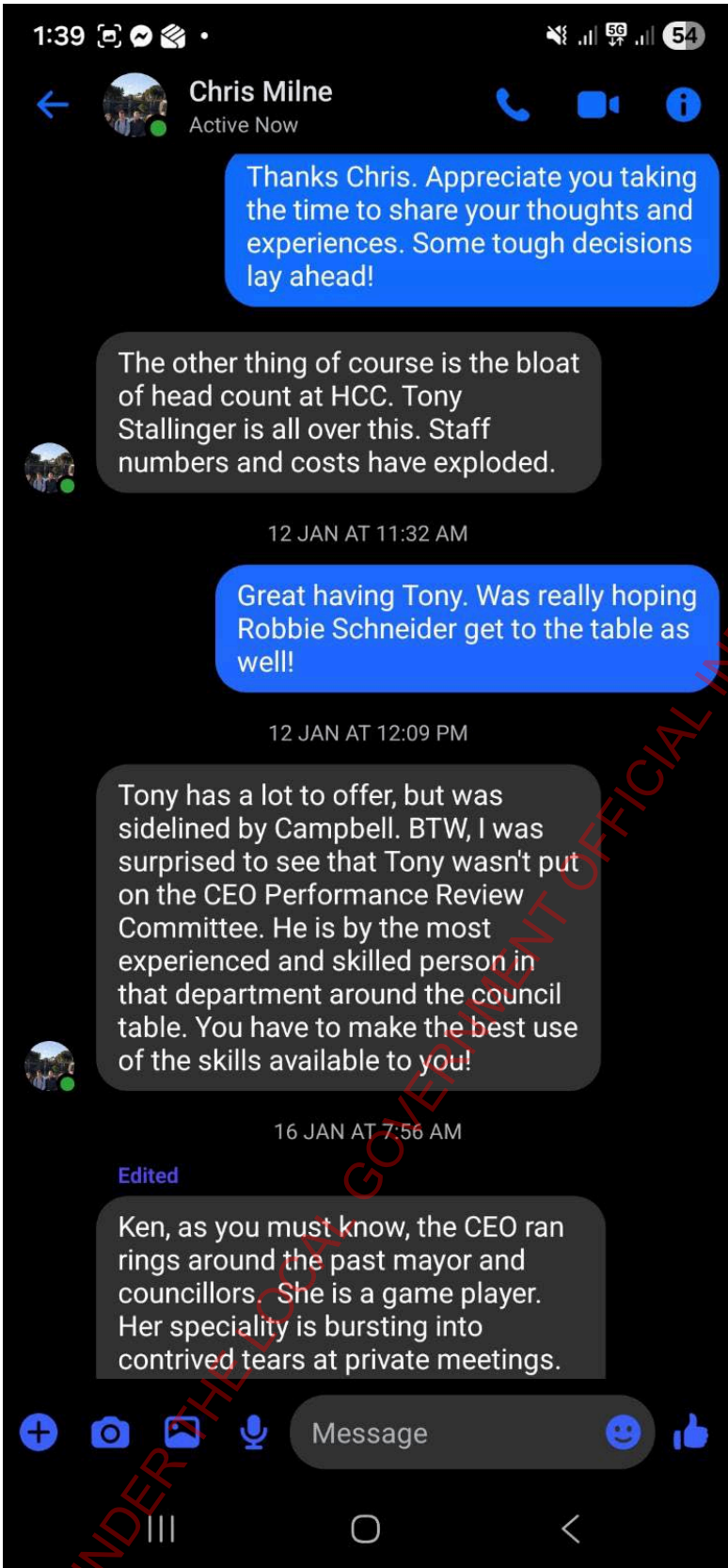
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54



Chris Milne

Active Now



contrived tears at private meetings. She is a CEO-Politician. The last CEO Performance Review Committee was hopeless at holding her to account. In this triennium, the two most highly skilled councillors in this sphere - Tony and Prabha - have been passed over. Too late now I guess to fix this, but I do really wonder why.



16 JAN AT 8:57 AM

I came into an environment that was challenging and divisive. You know more about that than I do. Tony was sidelined (which I didn't know!), and the only 2 people whose counsel I sought were Ray and Tony. There was no relationship between Jo and Tony, but there needed to be as I had intended Tony to move into senior leadership position. I don't have all the answers, Chris, we look like being the last HCC and we are living beyond our means!!

16 JAN AT 11:10 AM

Edited

I don't envy the task ahead. The CEO has bulked up the staff numbers and runs interference on any councillor who asks questions. eg Tony was rudely shut down when querying why the draft budget last year showed an 18% increase in staff salary costs. He received no support from



Message



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Chris Milne

Active Now



Campbell (just as I received no support when questioning the true cost of Naenae Pool). Tony was never able to get an answer on staff costs. Because Tony knows so much, he's perceived as a threat by Jo. The 'no relationship' thing will be from Jo's end. As you know, Tony is a very level headed and reasonable person, so any problem with the relationship would due to Jo's attitude and behaviour.

Re living beyond our means - this will be a tough thing to solve, but the starting point is reducing staff numbers. Jo will not volunteer this and will actively block by any means available to her, including by fudging numbers, hiding stuff etc - this is where Tony is just about the only person capable of unravelling things. He can only make inroads if given a clear mandate and political support by you. Tony is not the sort of person to go out on a personal crusade, so he would need to be visibly tasked with a job, with unqualified political support from you. Jo won't like it, so be prepared for a battle.



17 JAN AT 3:25 PM

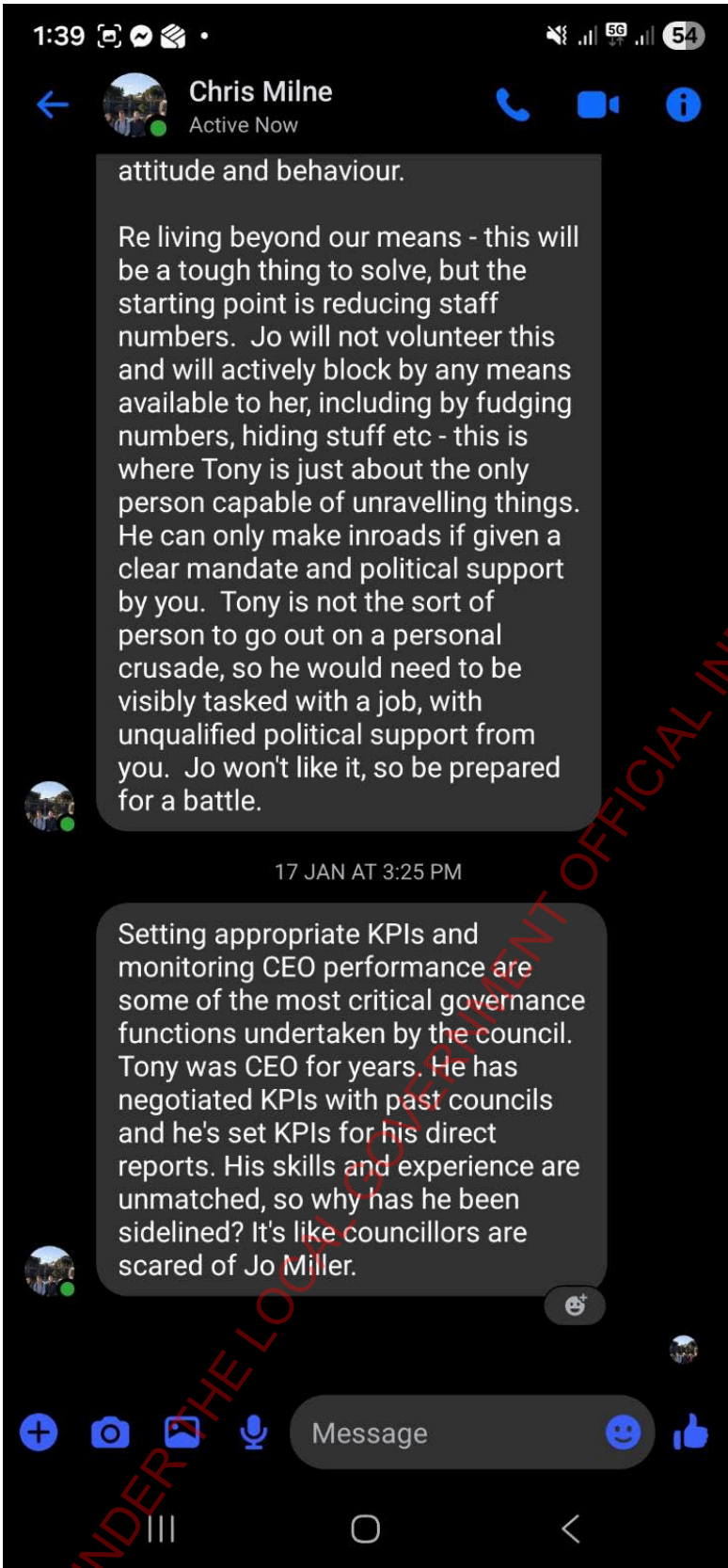
Setting appropriate KPIs and monitoring CEO performance are some of the most critical governance



Message



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