



29 April 2026

Justin Wong  
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Tēnā koe Justin,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 20 April 2026, seeking reports relating to a cyber security incident considered by the Audit and Risk Subcommittee. Specifically, you requested:

*"I would like a full copy of any reports produced as part of item 21 of the Audit and Risk subcommittee meeting on April 21, 2026, titled "Cyber Security Incident".*

*If the report cannot be provided in full or partially redacted, please supply the following information:*

- 1. The nature of the incident;*
- 2. The incident's duration;*
- 3. How many people have been affected;*
- 4. Any remedial actions; and*
- 5. Any identified causes of the incident".*

**Answer:**

Before responding to your request, it is important to note that aspects of the assessment and assurance work relating to the cyber security incident are ongoing.

As a result, the information Council is able to provide at this time reflects the current understanding of the incident based on investigations completed to date.

Council is unable to provide you with a copy of the report produced for the Audit and Risk Subcommittee. The report was prepared to support confidential governance oversight of Council's cyber security arrangements and response to a live incident. Council is withholding the report in full under section 7(2)(j) of the LGOIMA, as its release would be likely to prejudice the ability of Council to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage, including by exposing information that could be exploited to facilitate further cyber-attacks. 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.

While the report itself is withheld, Council can provide the following information in response to the specific matters raised in your request.

The incident was caused by a sophisticated phishing attack which resulted in unauthorised mailbox access, that occurred in March 2026. Specifically, a Council staff member responded to a phishing email, which resulted in unauthorised access to a small number of Microsoft 365 email mailboxes. Malicious emails were sent internally and externally, triggering activation of Council's cyber security incident response processes. Once identified, the immediate risk was contained within a short period, although investigation and assessment of the impact has continued over subsequent days.

As a result of the phishing attack, it was determined that five individuals may have had identity information compromised, and 732 people may have had financial information exposed through email correspondence.

Following identification of the incident, Council took immediate steps to secure affected accounts, stop further unauthorised access and assess the scope and impact of the breach.

All affected individuals have been notified directly and provided with information about the incident, an apology, and guidance on steps they may wish to take. Where identity documents may have been compromised, Council has offered to meet the reasonable costs of replacing those documents. Council has also reviewed its security settings and implemented additional safeguards and control improvements.

Council has notified the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of the notifiable privacy breach, informed the National Cyber Security Centre, advised the Department of Internal Affairs and other stakeholders. Ongoing reporting and assurance will continue through Council's executive leadership and the Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

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**