



3 April 2024

Frank Newman

[frank@newman.co.nz](mailto: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 19 March 2024 for:

*Please provide copies of the communications between members of the public and council officers between 6 February 2024 and 17 March 2024 that refer to or relate to "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](http://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](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases)

Yours sincerely

Philip Rossiter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Campbell Barry](#); [Andy Mitchell](#); [Brady Dyer](#); [Chris Parkin](#); [Gabriel Tupou](#); [Glenda Barratt](#); [Karen Morgan](#); [Keri Brown](#); [Josh Briggs](#); [Naomi Shaw](#); [Simon Edwards](#); [Tony Stallinger](#); [Tui Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Time to step up to the plate?  
**Date:** Friday, 15 March 2024 7:55:10 pm

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Dear Council Member

I trust you and your other elected colleagues are now well aware of the matter addressed in the following podcast regarding our city's CEO?

<https://realitycheck.radio/frank-newman-nz-centre-for-political-research-on-lower-hutt-city-councils-censoring-of-the-newspaper-insert-featuring-sir-apirana-ngatas-treaty-book/>

The Free Speech Union has indicated its intentions, and they clearly appear well founded.

There really is no excuse for what transpired and, you as one of the elected officials of our city, I'm wondering what you and your colleagues intend to do about it?

And if legal action should transpire, who will be responsible for the legal fees that Council incurs in this matter, and which could have likely been readily avoided by prompt, appropriate action on your part?

I, and I'm sure many other ratepayers and local citizens, look forward to receiving (seeing and hearing of) your public response.

Please do take it that you're on notice.

Yours very unhappily.

[REDACTED]

Lower Hutt - Ratepayer

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Jo Miller](#); [Campbell Barry](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hutt News and Treaty Pamphlet  
**Date:** Friday, 8 March 2024 9:54:06 pm

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For :

Jo Miller

Campbell Barry

I am a regular follower of the Breaking Views website where writers and commenters produce a fund of debating points on political and cultural matters. Frank Newman has reproduced your email reply addressed to him regarding the Treaty pamphlet originally inserted in the Hutt News.

In your email (Jo Miller) you have misused the word appraised. You ought to have used the word apprised. Concise Oxford deals particularly and carefully with the two words. Fowler's Modern English Usage is another reference you will find helpful.

You and your council should also take care in using the term misinformation. The word misinform has the meaning of giving false or inaccurate information. You may be getting into deep water by accusing a person of dealing in misinformation. Oxford Thesaurus links misinform to delude, deceive, lie, and hoodwink.

Regarding the matter of removing the pamphlet from the Hutt News. The council ought not to be taking on in any shape or form the role of a self-appointed cultural censor. A more crucial question is did your council seek the approval of the Hutt News publisher? The publisher would have had a contract with the pamphlet provider.

Plus you cannot hide behind the word "operational", nor can you minimise the action by saying a "limited number of inserts ... were removed". The limited number could be hundreds or thousands. Your council has effectively deprived how many Hutt News readers of becoming fully informed on the Treaty issue? Dare it be said that by removing the pamphlet Hutt City Council itself has now misinformed the wider public?

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Wellington

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Campbell Barry](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Censorship of Sir Apirana Ngata  
**Date:** Saturday, 9 March 2024 10:40:21 am

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Good morning to Campbell Barry,  
I wondered if you had even been informed of this censorship of the research by Sir Apirana Ngata, whom Winston Peters has commented, several times, is his 'authority.'  
I have forwarded this email to you.

To Jo Miller  
CHIEF--OFFICER

Your response to the concerns raised on NZCPR's WEB PAGE.(NZ Centre for Political Research is unacceptable to many.

" The Hutt City Council BANNED AN INSERT FROM ITS PREMISES ON THE BASIS THAT IT WAS:

"SPREADING MISINFORMATION  
AND \_\_ NEEDED \_\_ A COUNTERARGUMENT IN ORDER TO BE PUBLISHED."

What MISINFORMATION? The contents of the 'insert' were by a learned, respected Minister of Maori Development, a lawyer and a professional.

What COUNTERARGUMENT? That of someone, who is poorly educated or over-emotional.....or... ?

THE BANNED INSERT:

The insert, funded by The New Zealand Centre for Political Research (NZCPR) was: SIR APIRANA NGATA'S "TREATY OF WAITANGI--AN EXPLANATION."

I agree with NZCPR that this is a clear breach of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act--Section 14 (Freedom of Expression.)

I have collected, on file, all the incredible historical work that Sir Apirana Ngata did on the TREATY OF WAITANGI and the KOHIMARAMA CONFERENCE.

To have the work of such a man of the highest intellect, dignity, integrity and knowledge--QUESTIONED and CENSORED by Hutt City Council workers is controlling, bullying--as well as insulting of him.

I am requesting that Hutt Council reflect on the censorship of the careful, methodical, research work of a rational, intelligent, refined, elegant and professional lawyer, politician, Minister of the Crown, gentleman and wondered what your opinion is.

Regards,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Campbell Barry](#)  
**Cc:** [Jo Miller](#); [Lucy Hodgins](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Complaint  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 March 2024 3:05:35 pm

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Dear Mr. Barry,

I refer to a recent article by Frank Newman.

It would appear your CEO, Jo Miller, decided without consultation from you or any Hutt City Councillors, to exclude the booklet 'The Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation by Sir Apirana Ngata' from The Hutt News in February this year, citing its inclusion would be akin to spreading "misinformation".

This in itself is a grotesque example of misinformation and demonstrates Ms. Miller's utter ignorance of our history and the complex issues surrounding the Treaty. Being experienced in Yorkshire local government issues does not qualify her to determine what is misinformation in a debate about our nation's democracy.

This booklet was published in 1922 and is in Sir Apirana Ngata's own words. It is the antithesis of misinformation as it is simply a fact-based opinion from one of the most respected and best legal minds this country has ever seen.

I note that as a Hutt City resident and ratepayer, I have yet to receive a copy of this booklet with my Hutt News paper.

This is not only tantamount to censorship and political control of the media, but is in breach of Section 14 of the Bill of Rights, which states:

*"Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form."*

A democracy is, by definition, 'rule of the people'.

As citizens, voters and ratespayers we have the right to access, distribute and discuss pertinent information pertaining to our country, constitution and Treaty without censorship.

It is not for the Hutt City Council to tell us what to think.

This is a very complex issue and we have the right to look at all information and make up our own minds, particularly if a referendum goes ahead.

Please ensure this booklet is included in the next Hutt News publication. If you no longer have copies, please get them reprinted so all Hutt Valley residents can have the chance to assess the facts on their merits and contribute to this debate without influence from our representatives.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [ContactHCC](#)  
**To:** [Jo Miller](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] The Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation" by Sir Apirana Ngata  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 March 2024 12:31:01 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good Afternoon Jo,  
Please see feedback below.  
Thank you,  
Billie

**CUSTOMER SERVICES**

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

**P:** 04 570 6666 **M: W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz][www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:21 PM  
**To:** ContactHCC <contact@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation" by Sir Apirana Ngata  
I understand that Jo Miller (CEO) has instructed Hutt City Council staff to remove all copies of "The Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation" by Sir Apirana Ngata from council buildings.  
This is racist and another example of this council's anti-Maori stance.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jo Miller](#)  
**To:** [Philip Rossiter](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Jo Miller, i recently read your response to NZCR regarding their circulation of a direct piece of history from a famous Maori MP and a total totara for the Maori. You really do need to receive an education on our REAL HISTORY. You an...  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3 April 2024 1:08:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [IMG0HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5 .png.png](#)

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Ngā mihi nui

**Jo Miller**  
Tumu Whakarae  
Chief Executive Officer


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

  
W: [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

Follow me on Twitter [@jomillernz](#)



Begin forwarded message:

**From:**   
**Date:** 25 March 2024 at 7:04:04 PM NZDT  
**To:** Jo Miller <[Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Jo Miller, i recently read your response to NZCR regarding their circulation of a direct piece of history from a famous Maori MP and a total totara for the Maori. You really do need to receive an education on our REAL HISTORY. You and you...



Sent from my Galaxy



**From:** [Jo Miller](#)  
**To:** [Philip Rossiter](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Hutt City Council censors work of revered and respected Māori leader  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3 April 2024 1:08:52 pm  
**Attachments:** [IMG0HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5.png.png](#)

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Ngā mihi nui

**Jo Miller**  
Tumu Whakarae  
Chief Executive Officer

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

**W:** [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

Follow me on Twitter [@jomillernz](#)



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 9 March 2024 at 9:50:56 AM NZDT  
**To:** Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Glenda Barratt <Glenda.Barratt@huttcity.govt.nz>, Josh Briggs <Josh.Briggs@huttcity.govt.nz>, Keri Brown <Keri.Brown@huttcity.govt.nz>, Brady Dyer <Brady.Dyer@huttcity.govt.nz>, Simon Edwards <Simon.Edwards@huttcity.govt.nz>, Tui Lewis <Tui.Lewis@huttcity.govt.nz>, Andy Mitchell <Andy.Mitchell@huttcity.govt.nz>, Karen Morgan <Karen.Morgan@huttcity.govt.nz>, Chris Parkin <Chris.Parkin@huttcity.govt.nz>, Naomi Shaw <Naomi.Shaw@huttcity.govt.nz>, Tony Stallinger <Tony.Stallinger@huttcity.govt.nz>, Gabriel Tupou <Gabriel.Tupou@huttcity.govt.nz>, Richard Te One <Richard.TeOne@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hutt City Council censors work of revered and respected Māori leader

Jo Miller  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hutt City Council

Dear Ms Miller,

I am a NZ citizen very aware these days of New Zealanders' rights to freedom of speech, conscience, and intellectual inquiry. I believe that freedom of speech is not only a legal principle, but a social good that allows for people in modern liberal democracies to peacefully, freely advocate for the causes they care about without risking unjust retribution. The first person who hurled an insult instead of a stone, was the founder of modern civilization.

As you will be aware, the New Zealand Centre for Political Research published an insert of Sir Apirana Ngata's 'Treaty of Waitangi – An Explanation' in 31 NZME and Stuff newspapers throughout the North Island last year. I understand that your Council banned the insert from its premises because "it was viewed as spreading misinformation."

Ms Miller, with the greatest respect, we do not live in Russia or North Korea where censorship is the way government works. Not in NZ I say. An informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy. Information and commentary from one of the greatest NZers (who appears on the \$50 note) is, I think to be encouraged as an important part of any debate.

The Council's removal of the insert from the Hutt News is the very definition of censorship, and I totally reject your council's actions.

How can we have an informed citizenry, if someone from one side of the debate chooses to remove information from the other side? If we citizens allow government to censor, we are giving the powerful more power.

If the Hutt City Council is really in favour of free speech (which I would assume that, because we still live in a liberal democracy, you are), then you're in favour of free speech for precisely the views that you may not agree with. Otherwise, perhaps, you're not in favour of free speech?

As Evelyn Beatrice Hall once said "I may disagree with what you have to say but will defend to the death your right to say it". That's what this country is all about and I will be one to fight to protect it.

Please consider free speech training for you, all your councillors and staff. It will be of benefit I believe.

Also reconsider your actions in this regard and return the material to your premises and encourage the debate.

yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jo Miller](#)  
**To:** [Philip Rossiter](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Answering the phone.  
**Date:** Wednesday, 3 April 2024 1:08:16 pm  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.png](#)  
[IMG1HCCLogo-Colour-EmailSignatureV5 .png.png](#)

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Ngā mihi nui

**Jo Miller**  
Tumu Whakarae  
Chief Executive Officer

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

W: [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** mark hofsteede <[mark\\_hofsteede@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_hofsteede@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** 10 March 2024 at 8:51:00 AM NZDT  
**To:** Jo Miller <[Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Answering the phone.

Hello Jo,  
Who appointed HCC as the final arbiter of what is or isn't misinformation?  
Sincerely, [REDACTED]

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**From:** Jo Miller <[Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 February 2024 1:44 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Answering the phone.

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for getting in touch. I see that our customer service lead, Sherwyn Keith, has

responded to your initial email apologising for the wait time you experienced when you called our contact centre.

As Sherwyn explained, the team strives to respond to calls in under three minutes. There are, of course, variations to this depending on the number of calls into the contact centre.

We appreciate you contacting us about the issue of the roaming dog, and we apologise you were unable to get through to some of our team to escalate this issue. I understand that you had called previously on 26 January and spoke with our animal services team. Please continue to raise these issues by contacting us and we will endeavour to deal with them as soon as we can.

I do agree with you that the challenge is to keep the water in the pipes and RiverLink is an important resilience project for our city.

Ngā mihi nui  
Jo

Ngā mihi nui

**Jo Miller**

Tumu Whakarae  
Chief Executive Officer

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

  
W: [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 25, 2024 4:21 PM  
**To:** Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Answering the phone.

Hello Jo,

It appears from the response I have received , that having a person employed to answer the phone when you ring, is in the too hard basket. To add to this list, let us add keeping water in the pipes. Still, we will all be saved by Riverlink !

Sincerely, [REDACTED]