

29 November 2023

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-24137

Bruce

By email: fyi-request-24642-bd22207c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Bruce

Request for information 2023-269

I refer to your request for information dated 03 November 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 03 November 2023. You have requested the following:

"I would like all documents regarding the decision to close the Wellington Bus Interchange on February 11 2022. I'm particularly interested in inter-agency correspondence, meetings and phone calls prior to the decision to close the interchange, and in threat assessments to staff and passengers."

Greater Wellington's response follows:

The Interchange closure referred to in this request occurred during the protest occupation of Parliament in 2022. The discussion concerning closure of the interchange was commenced between Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council infrastructure teams following damage to the train station toilets. The request was made by Greater Wellington to avoid unnecessary occupation of the facilities, any further damage to facilities, and to improve security within the interchange facility.

The Wellington Bus interchange is owned by Wellington City Council, so the final decision to close the facility was made by them. However, Metlink's decision was to remove all bus services from the interchange prior to the decision to close the facility in order to remove the possibility of vandalism or damage from the occupation.

Please see **Attachment 1** for all correspondence regarding the closure of the Wellington Bus Interchange on 11 February 2022.

Attachment 2 includes a security report regarding the Interchange closure.

An internal systems search prior to 11 February 2022, returned 3 additional relevant emails which have been included in **Attachment 1**.

Please note that contact numbers have been redacted from attachment 1 under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington's need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington's reason for withholding parts of the document under the ground identified above.

No formal assessment of staff and passenger safety was conducted and therefore this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of the Act on the basis that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. When refusing under this section we are required to consider consulting the requestor. We have considered this, however, believe our decision to refuse this part of your request is unlikely to change.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Gain', with a small dash at the end.

Samantha Gain

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink