

27 August 2020

Jo  
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Kia Ora Jo

### **The information you requested - CAS-200633-T6W7X4**

Thank you for your request for information dated 18 August 2020, asking for more information about our reasons for refusing your initial request under section 7(1) and 7(2)(f)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

#### **Section 7(2)(f)(ii) of the LGOIMA**

The online site on which the article about the top five Parking Officers (in terms of parking infringements issued) included numerous malicious and threatening comments about AT's Parking Officers. For this reason we decided to rely on section 7(2)(f)(ii) to withhold the particular Parking Officer's name in response to the request on the basis that releasing the name was necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs (enabling the Parking Officer to carry on performing his/her public service role) without undue pressure or harassment from the requestor and/or any other person whom the requestor may disclose such information to.

#### **Section 7(1) of the LGOIMA**

When we consider that a section 7 withholding ground applies, we must apply the public interest test under section 7(1). When considering your request, we considered that there was insufficient public interest in making the individual Parking Officer's name available to override the need to protect him/her from undue pressure or harassment in carrying out his/her Parking Officer role. We considered that, while there is public interest in transparency around the amount of parking infringement fees being collected by AT through infringement notices issued by AT Parking Officers, there wasn't sufficiently strong public interest in the identity of the individual Parking Officer concerned to outweigh the interests protected by section 7(2)(f)(ii).

Further to the above, Parking Officers in Auckland were victim to 159 instances of assault/endorsement for the period January 2019 to July 2020.

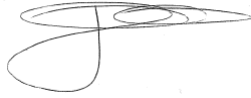
We stand by our original decision to withhold the name of the individual Parking Officer in response to your request, in reliance of section 7(1) and 7(2)(f)(ii) of the LGOIMA.

#### **LGOIMA guidelines**

We don't have any AT LGOIMA guidelines or procedures regarding how we decide LGOIMA withholding grounds. We consider each request on a case by case basis using the Ombudsman's guidelines. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 17 (e) of the LGOIMA Act as the information doesn't exist.

Should you believe that we have not dealt with your request appropriately, you are able to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman in accordance with section 27(3) of the LGOIMA and seek an investigation and review regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely



John Strawbridge  
**Group Manager, Parking Services & Compliance**