

16 June 2023

Official information request No. 8140011908  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Jenni Cook

By email: [fyi-request-22921-9a4c6a90@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22921-9a4c6a90@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Jenni

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**Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

**Re: All complaints against elected member Jake Law**

Thank you for your email of 26 May 2023 about complaints about Jake Law. Your specific request and our response are set out below.

*I wish to receive (sic) all information regarding complaints code of conduct or otherwise laid against elected Hibiscus and Bays Local Board member Jake Law.*

Since the commencement of the current electoral term in October 2022, a total of 16 complaints have been lodged against Jake Law, member of Hibiscus & Bays Local Board. Fourteen of these complaints were dismissed during the preliminary assessment stage. Thirteen of these complaints were all related to one incident and the remaining two are currently being assessed.

Further to Section 7(2)(a) – protect the privacy of natural persons and Section 7(2)(c) – protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, we cannot disclose any specific details regarding these complaints. We are under obligation to safeguard the privacy of complainants and other parties involved. Particularly considering that the complaints received thus far have been dismissed.

For your information I have set out below a brief explanation of the process which Auckland Council follows in dealing with complaints against elected members. This process is explained in our Code of Conduct for Elected Members (Code).

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/how-auckland-council-works/elected-members-remuneration-declarations-interest/Pages/elected-members-code-conduct.aspx>

The Code establishes a framework that elected members must adhere to, and it also provides for members of the public to lodge complaints if they believe a member has breached the Code.

The complaints process is overseen by staff, and it begins with the chief executive appointing an Investigator to conduct a preliminary assessment of the complaint. The purpose of the preliminary assessment is to examine the allegations and determine whether they constitute a breach of the Code. The Investigator has the authority to dismiss the complaint or make non-binding recommendations if there is a breach, but it is not considered significant.

During the preliminary assessment stage, complaints may be dismissed for various reasons. These reasons include if the complaints are not substantiated, if the allegations lack supporting evidence, or if it is determined that the complaint has already been adequately resolved.

If the investigator determines that there may be a material breach involved in any complaint, the complaint will be escalated to an external conduct commissioner who may direct mediation or undertake a full investigation and has the power to issue sanctions. It is worth noting that none of the complaints made against Jake Law to date have been forwarded to a conduct commissioner.

Decisions relating to the information that is being released to you were made by **Oliver Roberts, Acting General Manager Local Board Services**.

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request, you have the right by way of complaint, under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, to apply to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the 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.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting official information request number 8140011908.

Ngā mihi



Angela Hare  
Senior Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner  
Governance Services