

5 July 2024

File Ref: IRC-6502

James

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Tēnā koe James

Thank you for your email of 16 May 2024 to Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information:

- *A copy of Wellington Council's venue policy as referenced by Councillor Nikau Wi Neera in his Platform interview with Sean Plunket dated 16th May.*
- *Details and all communications of any events that were trying to be booked or were booked at council venues that "raised eyebrows" or potentially were of concern. This should include all communications involving council.*
- *A copy of the "governance" agreement between Te Papa and WCC concerning venue hire as referenced by Councillor Nikau Wi Neera in his interview with Mr Plunket.*
- *A copy of WCC procedure when a venue booking is red flagged.*

On 27 May 2024 you refined the second point of your request to include only meeting/venue rooms and spaces such as halls and exhibition spaces.

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

General information about event organisation and planning can be found on the Wellington City Council website at the following links:

[Organising an event - Event planning and support - Wellington City Council](#)

[Events Policy - Plans, policies and bylaws - Wellington City Council](#)

Wellington City Council does not have a formal venue policy or a sensitive events policy for 'red flagged' events in the region. Instead, the law is applied based on the facts and circumstances of each case, while giving consideration to the health and safety of staff, attendees and members of the public. Any potential issues associated with the event are assessed by the venue operator and the Council, and a legal, security and health and safety assessment is completed by the parties prior to an event progressing.

Venue hire policies for Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre are the responsibility of Te Papa. There has been only one event at Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre for which a full health and safety risk assessment has been required, this being for the event *Unsilenced* which occurred on 18 May 2024. There have been no substantial 'red flags' raised about bookings at any Wellington City Council venue, though these would be assessed, addressed and managed as part of the booking and preparation process.

As Wellington City Council does not hold the information that you have asked for in your first two points, your request to be provided with these is refused under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA, on the grounds that the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The Te Papa Management Agreement is a commercial arrangement between Wellington City Council and Te Papa. Given its commercial sensitivities, we are withholding this agreement under section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the LGOIMA, however an excerpt of section 2.6 of the agreement is provided below:

## **2.6 Relationship Principles**

*The parties will behave and work together, in relation to all aspects of this Agreement and the delivery of the Services, in a manner that is consistent with the following relationship principles:*

*(o) Ethics: the parties will seek to ensure that any potential event, function or exhibition that gives rise to ethical or reputational concerns for either of them is referred to the Relationship Management Group for consideration prior to any commitments being made;*

The Relationship Management Group is the group comprising a member from Te Papa, Wellington City Council, WellingtonNZ and an independent Chair tasked with overseeing the implementation and monitoring the performance of the Agreement.

As per section 7(1) of the LGOIMA, I do not consider that in the circumstances of this response, the withholding of the full Te Papa Management Agreement is outweighed by the other considerations which render it desirable to in the public interest to make the information available.

You have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(1) of the LGOIMA, to request an investigation and review of the Council's decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Susan Sales

Senior Advisor Official Information

**Official Information team**