

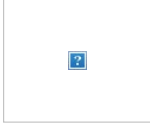
14 June 2024

From: Sophie Farrell
To: ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz
Subject: MoLG to Councillor Ray Chung
Attachments: image001.png
Ministerial response to Councillor Ray Chung.pdf

Dear Ray,

Please find attached recent correspondence from Hon Simeon Brown

Kind regards,



Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Energy, Minister for Auckland

Email: @. Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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Please note information about meetings related to the Ministers' portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Release#FIS>

From: Councillor Ray Chung <ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:17 AM

To: Simeon Brown (MIN) <S.Brown@ministers.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: MoLG to Councillor Ray Chung

Hi Sophie

Many thanks for this and to Simeon Brown for his comprehensive reply

I understand his comments on the +/-10% rule and acknowledge that this will not be covered in this upcoming bill, that I absolutely support **Are there any future plans to address this inequity between the qualifying ward numbers between general wards and the Maori ward?** The same with the inequity of having unelected members being afforded voting rights on council?

Many thanks

Cheers, Ray

From: Sophie Farrell <Sophie.Farrell@parliament.govt.nz> **On Behalf Of** Simeon Brown (MIN)

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 2:52 PM

To: Councillor Ray Chung <ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: MoLG to Councillor Ray Chung

Dear Ray,

Please find attached recent correspondence from Hon Simeon Brown

Kind regards,



Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Energy, Minister for Auckland

Email: @. Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House

Document Two



COR797

Ray Chung
By email: ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz

Dear Ray,

Thank you for your two emails of 28 May 2024 regarding Māori wards and Long-Term Plan (LTP) amendments for staffing levels at Wellington City Council (the Council).

Regarding Māori wards, there are currently no plans to work on the +/- 10% rule. As noted in my response to your 31 March 2024 email, the current +/- 10% rule only applies to different wards of the same type.

If a council has multiple Māori wards, then the +/- 10% rule would apply between these wards as it does for general wards. There are no plans for this policy to be changed in the upcoming Bill. This Bill is also not intended to abolish or amend iwi voting rights on council committees and subcommittees. Currently, this matter is not on the work programme.

I acknowledge your concerns regarding the staffing levels at the Council. However, as the Minister of Local Government, I am primarily responsible for the legislative framework within which local authorities operate. Central government cannot dictate staffing levels, which is a matter for councils. Councils are accountable to their communities for their actions and decisions.

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out the process for councils to develop, consult, and decide on their LTPs. I encourage you to seek advice from council officers or your fellow elected members on the best way to put forward ideas for consideration by both the Council and the community ahead of adopting your next LTP.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

Document Three

From: [Councillor Ray Chung](#)
To: [Simeon Brown](#)
Subject: LTP amendments for reducing staff
Date: 28 May 2024 18:26:50
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi Simeon

I was just told today by council officers when I wanted to move an amendment to freeze recruiting more staff with a possible sinking lid that we can't do this because of the Local Government Act and that any authority to do this has to come from central government?

This is very hard to believe? We're continuing to employ more and more staff despite reaching record expenditure and debt! Is this correct as why aren't we cutting back on staffing levels that have grown 27% in the past four years!

Cheers, Ray

Rayward R Chung

Wellington City Councillor
Onslow Western ward
Wellington City Council

M +64 21 194 1463

E xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx

W wellington.govt.nz



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