

14 February 2025

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

File Ref: IRC-7811

James Powell
fyi-request-29830-dc4117ed@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Powell

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2025 to Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information:

- *I am requesting all information held by Wellington City Council (including officials, the Mayor and elected councillors) relating to the decision by the organisers of the Homegrown festival to no longer host the event in Wellington.*

To be clear, this request includes:

1. *Any information held by WCC (including officials, the Mayor and elected councillors) relating to the decision by organisers of Homegrown to stop hosting the event in Wellington. This should include briefings, memos, aide memoirs or similar; emails; notes from meetings; text messages.*
2. *Any communications between WCC (including officials, the Mayor and elected councillors) and the organisers of Homegrown. This should include briefings, memos, aide memoirs or similar; emails; notes from meetings; text messages.*
3. *Any internal communications between WCC officials, elected councillors and/or the Mayor regarding the decision by the organisers of Homegrown to no longer host the event in Wellington. This should include briefings, memos, aide memoirs or similar; emails; notes from meetings; text messages.*

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

Please find attached, as **Appendix 01** to my response, a copy of the communications that were sent to the Council regarding the Homegrown Director's decision to cease holding the event in Wellington. Some information has been withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of natural persons, and section 7(2)(f)(ii) of the LGOIMA, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment.

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


I can advise that the Mayor's Office did confirm that the mayor has had no communication with the organisers of Homegrown. It should be noted that the Council only provided operational support to the event, with WellingtonNZ managing the contractual funding relationship, which means that we have no influence in the decision to move the festival outside of Wellington.

Please note, we have interpreted parts two and three of your request to mean information related to your topic statement regarding the decision not to host the event in Wellington, which is released in Appendix 01. If this is not what you are seeking, please clarify further. Additionally, a forensic ICT search was carried out on the word 'Homegrown,' which returned over 500,000 emails.

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 and refuse information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you require further information, please contact official.information@wcc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Danika Morris-Brown
Senior Advisor Official Information
Official Information & Privacy
Wellington City Council