



21 January 2026

Cara Brown

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Tēnā koe Cara,

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 3 December 2025, seeking all information relating to The Dowse’s decision to acquire a new work by Shane Cotton. Specifically, you requested:

“Please can I request all information relating to The Dowse’s decision to acquire a new work by Shane Cotton. This includes correspondence, meeting minutes and acquisition documentation, plus any additional information held.”

On 4 December 2025, Council wrote to you to explain that the Shane Cotton work is being commissioned by the Dowse Foundation, an independent charitable trust. We also advised that the Foundation is responsible for the fundraising campaign and commissioning process. Council as an organisation does not manage these activities, although a Council staff member serves as a trustee of the Foundation in a personal capacity. At the time, Council advised that the information it held was likely to be limited.

That same day, you responded and advised that you wished to proceed with a revised scope, requesting:

“All information held by the Dowse and Hutt City Council regarding the Dowse Foundation’s recent \$100,000 major art commission.”

Answer:

Council has interpreted your revised request as relating to the Dowse Foundation's current \$100,000 Major Art Commission awarded to Shane Cotton, including information connected with the commissioning, funding, fundraising activity, communications, and related decision-making associated with that commission.

The Dowse Foundation is responsible for commissioning and fundraising activity associated with the Major Art Commission. Accordingly, the amount of information held by Council within scope is limited. Council does not hold the Foundation's internal records, and the information held by Council that falls within the scope of your request consists of correspondence that has been shared with Council staff.

Appendix 1 below Sets out the documents identified as within scope of your request and Council's decision on their release. Some information has been withheld as it is out of scope of your request, and some has been withheld under the following provisions of the LGOIMA:

- Section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of individuals, including patrons' details and personal contact information,
- Section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the LGOIMA, as release would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the Foundation or the artist,
- Section 7(2)(c)(i) and (ii) of the LGOIMA, as the information was provided and is held under an obligation of confidence, and release would be likely to prejudice the continued supply of similar information or otherwise damage the public interest, and
- Section 7(2)(i) of the LGOIMA, as release would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the Council's ability to carry on negotiations, including donor engagement and procurement of commissioned artwork.

Council has considered whether the public interest in release of the withheld information outweighs the need to withhold it and has concluded that it does not.

Please note that correspondence of a purely administrative nature (for example, meeting scheduling or logistical arrangements that do not relate to substantive matters concerning the Major Art Commission) has not been included in this release.

In addition, to minimise duplication, where multiple versions of the same email thread exist, only the most recent version of the email chain has been provided, unless the correspondence diverged into separate threads.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [Office of the Ombudsman - Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases - Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui



Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy