

24 July 2017

LGOIMA No. 8140001673  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Simon Kitson  
By email: [fyi-request-6090-4159a6cc@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6090-4159a6cc@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr. Kitson

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

**Logging and Planting of Natives in the Hunua Ranges**

I refer to your request for information, which we received on 29 June 2017, concerning the logging and plating of Native in the Hunua Ranges.

You requested the following information:

***'all correspondence exchanged between August 2016 and June 2017 between Auckland Council and Watercare on the question of logging and/or planting of natives on Watercare land in the Hunua Ranges'.***

To progress your request, we conducted a forensic correspondence search within our email systems. By way of explanation, a forensic search is the the widest net we can cast across our electronic information. Auckland Council has approximately 18,000 mailboxes on its system (current and those used by former employees and contractors). For your request there was a long time period of ten months specified as the date range to search. Wide searches of this nature take a considerable amount of server resources to execute

From this forensic search we returned the following numbers:

<b>Search</b>	<b>number of items returned</b>
All Correspondence	3,212

After these e-mails were examined, we found that a large quantity of information was irrelevant to your request, or were duplicates of the same correspondence which were repeated in the search. After removing irrelevant/duplicate correspondence, 1,552 items remained from our search.

In our email dated 13 July 2017, we advised that we had considered your request, and that due to the scope in timeframe, your request may be refused under section 17(f) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. After considering the above correspondence for your request, we estimated the amount of time that it would take to collate the requested information to be roughly 51 hours (with an average of 2 minutes per e-mail).

In your e-mail dated 20 July 2017, you made a refinement on your request to the following:

***'discussion between Auckland Council and Watercare of the question of replanting the Watercare land in the Hunua Ranges between February and May 2017.'***

We thus conducted a subsequent forensic IS search with the refined parameters and returned the following numbers:

<b>Search</b>	<b>number of items returned</b>
All Correspondence	1,123

After reviewing the subsequent information and removing irrelevant and duplicate items, 397 items remained from the search. We have considered whether fixing a charge for the request or extending the timeframe of the request would enable the request to be granted in accordance with section 17(a)(1) of LGOIMA. The time required to process 397 emails at approximately 2 minutes per email is estimated to be 13 hours of collation time.

Council's charging policy allows the first four hours of time to be provided free of charge and further time to be charged at \$38 per half hour. Due to the volume of information identified for your request, and the time taken to examine and review previous information, we do not believe that charging for the information or extending the time limit would allow us to grant your request in this instance.

### **Our Decision**

Accordingly, I am writing to confirm that we are unable to respond to both your Official Information request in accordance with section 17(f) of the LGOIMA on the basis that making the information available would be likely to require substantial collation and research.

We have considered whether fixing a charge or extending the time limit would allow us to provide this information to you in accordance with section 17(a). Given the substantial amount of information involved and the estimated time taken to complete this request, a charge or an extension of time will not sufficiently cure the significant impact on staff and other customers that processing this request would entail.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this 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.

Yours sincerely



Aaron Henry  
**Privacy and LGOIMA Business Partner**  
**Auckland Council**

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