

Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta

MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister for Māori Development

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for the Environment



13 February 2018

Lynda Sampson

fyi-request-6838-a92f9a2a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Lynda

Thank you for your emails of 15 November and 20 December 2017 asking for the reasons Mr Greg Gent resigned from the position of Mayor of Kaipara. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I am aware that the Kaipara District Council issued a press release on 9 October 2017 which advised ratepayers that Mr Gent resigned for personal reasons. The press release is available on the Council's website www.kaipara.govt.nz under the *Our Council*, and *News* tabs.

I do not hold any other information about the reasons for Mr Gent's resignation.

I note your concern that Kaipara District ratepayers are paying for two government Commissioners. The previous Council Commissioners fulfilled their terms before the 2015 local body elections, when the Council returned to elected officials. At the time, a Crown Manager and Crown Observer were appointed to assist the new Council in transitioning back to democratic governance.

The term of the Crown Observer expired on 30 September 2017, when the position was terminated. A Crown Manager alone remains appointed for a term that expires on the date of the 2019 local government elections. As advised in the Gazette notice for the appointment, I will undertake a review of the continued need for this appointment in June 2018.

Thank you again for writing.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nanaia Mahuta', written in a cursive style.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Local Government