

4 July 2018

John Luke

Email: [fyi-request-7995-6e684330@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7995-6e684330@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear John

### **The role of Rachel Qi within Porirua City Council and the Mayor's Office**

I refer to your request for official information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) received 5 June 2018 relating to the Mayor's relationship with Rach Qi. The questions you specified have been included as numbered headings in bold, with our response following.

- 1. Can you please kindly inform me if Rachel Qi has any formal or informal role within the Council. If so, can you please let me know how much she has been paid and what is the job description of her role. There has been multiple reports from Chinese social media that Rachel Qi has some kind of relationship with the Council or the Mayor's office. E.g. At the New Zealand China Mayoral Forum, Rachel Qi has describe herself as a City Council's Business Consultant.**
  - Mrs Rachel Qi has provided Chinese protocol and Mandarin translation services in an unpaid capacity for the Mayor when he has met with Chinese dignitaries and addressed Chinese audiences. In this context, Mrs Qi attended the New Zealand China Mayoral Forum with the Mayor in Wellington (3-4 December 2017).
  - Mrs Qi has also recently met with officials from our friendly city Yangzhou (where she was visiting family) on behalf of Porirua City Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential areas for cooperation between our two cities.
  - In addition, Mrs Qi has invited the Mayor to participate in local cultural events in his Mayoral capacity:
    - Chinese New Year celebrations in Wellington (30 January 2018)
    - Cultures of China, Festival of Spring Chinese New Year Show at Te Rauparaha Arena (25 February 2018)
  - The Mayor has also invited Mrs Qi to attend several events with him for which he has received complimentary tickets or otherwise been invited to attend in his Mayoral capacity, including:
    - His Majesty the Emperor of Japan birthday reception (6 December 2017)
    - The Welly's (6 December 2017)
    - India's 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day (26 January 2018)
    - Porirua City at Symphony in the Park - Sol3 Mio performance (3 March 2018)
    - Swan Lake/ Loch Na hEala at the New Zealand Festival (14 March 2018)
- 2. Also, can you please send me all the communications (emails, minutes etc) between Mayor Mike Tana and Rachel Qi.**
  - A copy of all relevant communications is provided as Attachment 1. Most of the communications between the Mayor and Mrs Qi have been via Tracey Steel, the Mayor's Executive Assistant. Some official information has been withheld from the attached emails on privacy grounds under s7(2)(a) and s7(2)(c) of LGOIMA relating to the names and contact details of individual members of the public as well as staff from the Council and other organisations who do not hold senior roles.

3. ***Has the Mayor ever received any gifts or donations from Rachel Qi? If so, what is the gift or how much was the donations.***

- The Mayor has not received any gifts or donations from Mrs Qi.

I trust that this information is of assistance and answers your queries. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Anne Rose at [anne.rose@porirua.govt.nz](mailto:anne.rose@porirua.govt.nz) or Ph (04)237-3590.

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.

Ngā mihi



**Wendy Walker**  
Chief Executive  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua

**Attachment 1:** Rachel Qi correspondence with Mayor's Office (Document #5754103)