

4 March 2020



Dear Sir

Request under Section 10 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

This letter provides the response to your request for information under Section 10 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

You requested:

The last two years of Richard Briggs, HCC Chief Executive, salary and information on voting from chambers, who voted for and against the Chief Executive's pay rise.

Our response:

Richard Briggs' pay rise of \$15,840 before tax will take his total annual remuneration package, including Kiwi Saver to \$469,040, his first pay rise since 2017. This equates to an increase of just under 1.75 per cent for each of the past two years.

Mayor Paula Southgate began the review process before Christmas. It included an independent market comparison of the remuneration earned by other council chief executives, as well as a comparison of the remuneration earned for similar sized roles in both public and private sectors.

The pay increase was passed by a majority. We have determined to withhold the information on who voted for and against the pay rise for the following reasons.

The Council vote on Mr Briggs' pay rise was conducted confidentially so that Elected Members could speak frankly and vote on a private employment matter without external pressure. Accordingly, this information is withheld under section 7(2)(f)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members from improper pressure. The information has also been withheld under section 7(2)(c)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 in order to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to otherwise damage the public interest.

Where information has been withheld you have the right to request of review by the Ombudsman. Details on how to make a complaint can be found at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

The Ombudsman's contact details are:

*The Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
Wellington 6143
Freephone 0800 802 602*

The Ombudsman website (above) is very user friendly with guidance, resources and publications as well as providing information on the functions of the Ombudsman.

If you wish to learn more about the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, this may be accessed on www.legislation.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

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