

Dear,

I refer to your official information request we received on 11 October 2024 requesting the following:

“Under LGOIMA, I would like to please ask for the following:

- *What is your council's current policy in relation to whether elected member workshops and briefings are open to the public?*
- *Did your council open up, or is it in the process of opening up, these workshops and briefings to be "open to the public by default" in line with the Ombudsman's recommendations in his "Open for Business" report of October 2023?*
- *If you have opened up, or are intending to open up, these workshops and briefings to the public, how are you doing so? (e.g. internet livestreaming, public attendance in person, after the fact video or audio recordings" etc)“*

Release of information

The information you have requested is as below.

- What is your council's current policy in relation to whether elected member workshops and briefings are open to the public?

All workshops/briefings are open to the public unless there is reason under LGOIMA for them to be closed, and these are stated on the Agendas. The Workshop/Briefing agendas are publicly available on our website.

- Did your council open up, or is it in the process of opening up, these workshops and briefings to be "open to the public by default" in line with the Ombudsman's recommendations in his "Open for Business" report of October 2023?

The Kaikōura District Council has been operating the 'open to the public by default' prior to the release of the Ombudsman's recommendations.

- If you have opened up, or are intending to open up, these workshops and briefings to the public, how are you doing so? (e.g. internet livestreaming, public attendance in person, after the fact video or audio recordings" etc)

We allow attendance in person and provide a Microsoft Teams link to those that request to view remotely. The media often attend remotely or in person. We do not record workshops at this stage.

Publication of responses to LGOIMA requests

Please note: our LGOIMA responses may be published on the Kaikōura District Council website a month after they have been responded to, with requesters' personal details withheld. If you have any concerns about this please contact the Official Information team on officialinformation@kaikoura.govt.nz

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Will Doughty', is positioned above the printed name.

Will Doughty
Chief Executive Officer