

LGOIMA Response to [REDACTED]

Wednesday 13 November 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

29 Bowler Avenue, Gore 9710
PO Box 8, Gore 9740

Phone 03 209 0330
Email info@goredc.govt.nz
www.goredc.govt.nz

Thank you for your request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, received by the Gore District Council on Friday 11 October. We apologise for the delay, we are a small Counwil with limited resources, and have current vacancies in areas that would have normally provided a response for this LGOIMA. You asked for the following:

1. *What is your council's current policy in relation to whether elected member workshops and briefings are open to the public?*
2. *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?*
3. *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)*

The Council has reviewed your request and provides the following responses:

1. The Council is in the process of developing a policy in relation to the workshops and briefings for elected members.
2. At this stage the Council has not opened up all of the briefing sessions to the public. Often there is commercially sensitive information in these briefings that needs to be protected until the appropriate time that the information can be released.
3. The Council is considering making available any powerpoint slides used during briefing sessions on the Council's website after the fact.

If you are unsatisfied with the response, you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen. You can find more information on its website:

<http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me on 209-0330.

Kind regards



Lornae Straith
General Manager Corporate Support