

25 June 2021

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 8419220 (OIR: 2021-273)

I refer to your information request we received on 30 May and subsequent clarification of figures on 2 June 2021 for the following:

I have been reading about the Kapiti Coast District Council funding of Air Chathams to the amount of nearly \$750,000 (\$1,550,000 incorrect figure in article). A \$500,000 loan last year, a cash subsidy of \$50,000, and close to \$500,000 a year to cover airfield flight information service costs for two financial years (<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/125083335/a-day-in-the-lonely-life-of-kpiti-airports-only-employee-its-chief-executive>).

Can you:

- 1. confirm these figures;***
- 2. who made these decisions, and;***
- 3. the rationale for this funding.***

In June 2018, following the withdrawal of Air New Zealand's Auckland-Kāpiti service at very short notice, the Council supported Air Chathams with the introduction of its new Auckland-Kāpiti service. The decision to support Air Chathams and the nature of the support offered to them was discussed at a public excluded Council meeting on 14 June 2018.

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020, the Council considered what support it could offer to Air Chathams to assist them in re-establishing the Auckland-Kāpiti air passenger service. This matter was discussed at a public excluded Council meeting on 28 May 2020.

Both of the above-mentioned Council reports were withheld from the public as, in the Council's view the reasons for withholding the reports were not outweighed by any public interest considerations favouring their release.

It remains Council's view that the reasons for the reports being public excluded in the first instance still apply and therefore we must continue to withhold the information in accordance with the following sections of LGOIMA:

- 7(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information, and
- 7(2)(h) – to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, by fax to (04) 471 2254, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Maxwell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Wayne' being more prominent than the last name 'Maxwell'.

Wayne Maxwell
Chief Executive
Te Tumuaki Rangatira