

27 July 2022

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Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) (the Act) – reference: OIR 2223-319

I refer to your information request we received on 20 July 2022 for the following:

Having read the minutes, I have the following queries:

1. The reference to \$250 meeting fee per meeting. Who is this paid to?

The meeting fee is paid to the each of the advisory group members attending the meeting, other than the community board representative.

2. A statement made by Tracey Morgan of Te Atiawa has been redacted purportedly because it is commercially sensitive. How can Te Atiawa have a commercial position in regards to the location of the library? The statement was made at a meeting which was, I assume, open to the public and to participants who have no obligation of confidentiality. Please therefore let me have an unredacted copy of the minutes.

The statement that was redacted is due to a particular building being mentioned; not because Te Ātiawa have a commercial position in relation to the library. Naming of particular buildings is considered to be commercially sensitive as a) we don't want to cause unrest for building owners and tenants and b) negotiations could take place in the future.

The advisory group meetings are not open to the public; attendance is limited to the members of the group, council officers and consultants. Each member of the advisory group has signed a confidentiality agreement as part of the Terms of Reference for the group.

Therefore, we stand by our decision not to provide an unredacted copy of the minutes sent to you on 6 July 2022. In the Council's view the reasons for withholding these details are not outweighed by public interest considerations in section 7(1) favouring their release.

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.

3. I note that since the meeting a further Iwi representative was added, presumably unilaterally. Under what authority or power was this done?

As Council works in partnership with Te Ātiawa there is mana whenua representation at different levels in the project as appropriate. We agreed that having two representatives on this advisory group was appropriate as they represent different needs of mana whenua and the community.

4. Why is there no representative of the Friends of the Library on the Advisory Group?

The advisory group is made up of representatives from different sectors of the community that have an interest in the library and service centre, plus an independent library expert. The scope of the representatives in the advisory group covers what we need at this stage of the project. As we progress through planning and design, representatives from other areas may be included as required.

5. Why is the First Retail Group represented on the Advisory Group? A perusal of its website does not indicate any experience or interest in public libraries. Its role is to advise and promote commercial businesses.

The advisory group member from the First Retail Group is there to provide input on behalf of Waikanae Town Centre retailers. He has extensive knowledge and expertise in retail and commercial business and has recently been working with many of the Waikanae Town Centre retailers.

Ngā mihi



Sean Mallon

Group Manager Infrastructure Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Pakiaka