

7 March 2022

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: OIR 2122-199

I refer to your information request we received on 21 February 2022 for the following:

After further consideration of the long term plan I understand that consultation is a key connection between council and ratepayers.

I also understand from the Local Government Act 2002 that unvaccinated constituents are to be consulted with too, given that these 'non C19 vaccinated' constituents are rate payers and public facilities users, I propose that you make the necessary provision to meet with my group of Kapiti citizens who want to consult on and be consulted regarding access to and use of public facilities by unvaccinated constituents, without the requirement for entering by vaccine pass.

We could meet in the council chambers, the common area between council building and library, outside the community centre, in the middle of Kapiti School field, or in a community hall. A sound system would be necessary so that all speakers can be heard clearly.

Council response regarding your request

The decision to require a Vaccine Pass at many Council facilities was an operational decision made by the Council's Senior Leadership Team, not Elected Members.

An operational decision of this kind is made under delegated authority and, in this instance, was made with urgency to protect the health and wellbeing of our staff and community. There is no requirement to consult on a decision such as this under the Local Government Act 2002.

However, it is important to remember that the changes made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are temporary. I can assure you that Council continues to monitor the situation with a view to returning services to normal as soon as we can.

Finally, in accordance with the comments made above we do not intend to consult and/or meet with your group about this operational decision.

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 'Mark de Haast', written in a cursive style.

Mark de Haast
Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū