

OIR: 2324/635

7 September 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your email of **15 August 2023** requesting the following information:

- 1. I understand that several complaints have been made to the Mayor/ Chief Executive of KCDC about Mr Bolger in his role as Chairman of CAP. Would you please advise the number of complaints, with the date of receipt of the complaints that KCDC have received since Mr Bolger became Chairman of CAP.***

Kāpiti Coast District Council received five complaints about Rt Hon Jim Bolger as Chair of the Coastal Advisory Panel in July and August 2023, as follows:

- 31 July 2023
- 1, 3, 7, and 8 August 2023.

- 2. I also understand that a complaint against Mr Bolger has been made by the Chair of the Raumati Community Board. Would you please provide me with a full copy of that complaint.***

The email received from the Chair of the Raumati Community Board is attached.

Ngā mihi



**Kris Pervan**

Group Manager Strategy and Growth  
Te Kaihautū Rautaki me te Tupu

*Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.*

**From:** [Community Board Member Bede Laracy](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Janet Holborow](#); [Darren Edwards](#); [Kris Pervan](#)  
**Cc:** [Councillor Sophie Handford](#); [Community Board Member Jonny Best](#); [Community Board Member Tarn Sheerin](#); [Community Board Member Tim Sutton](#); [Community Board Member Bede Laracy](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Takutai Kapiti in Raumati  
**Date:** Monday, 31 July 2023 5:01:50 pm

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Hi Janet, Darren, and Kris,

By now you will no doubt have been briefed on the Takutai Kapiti meeting in Raumati on Saturday.

We had around 200 people attend, and a good robust dialogue throughout. Staff did a great job of assisting with the facilitation of the meeting and as a Board we were happy with the way things went.

However, I wish to raise a complaint regarding the conduct of the Chair, Sir Jim Bolger.

We view this matter as serious and we wish to see an outcome or resolution to our complaint.

The purpose of this meeting was for the Panel to listen, not to inform, and people were encouraged to share their views.

It's fair to say that we have a range of views on issues within the Raumati community, and there is no shortage of people willing to share those views.

The meeting on Saturday was no exception, and we heard very strong views including anti-climate change views, a total distrust of the Takutai process, and a call for the removal of the Chair.

These views are well outside the current orthodox.

Nevertheless, they are people's genuinely held views, and they have a right to hold them and a right to express them.

And it was entirely within the scope of the process for people to voice even their most extreme views at Saturday's meeting.

However, Jim Bolger clearly did not take the same view.

A speaker shared a view that suggested managed retreat was the default for the process. Mr Bolger took the microphone to try and assure people that was not the case.

A number of us agree that his approach did more harm than good as it changed the tone of the meeting.

[REDACTED]

Mr Bolger then moved to the side of the table, and he had interactions with others who were seated.

[REDACTED]

By that time Mr Bolger had moved away.

My concerns about Mr Bolger's conduct are shared by the Raumati Community Board members, as well as others I have spoken to since the meeting.

Where people have been invited into a process and asked to provide their views, the job of the panel is to listen to them.

Moving in on a person speaking an unfavourable view was a direct act of intimidation, and it was intended to ensure that the views were not aired.

We do not accept that such an action was justifiable.

We view the action as bullying, we do not condone the action at any level, and we wish to raise a formal complaint on that basis.

Going forward we have concerns about Mr Bolger's involvement in this process.

We understand that he is a man with vast experience in politics and he would generally have much to offer.

However, his experience works against him in this situation as someone with his experience should know better.

The fact that he chose to act as he did suggests that either he is so used to bullying people that he has normalised it, or he has reached the point whereby he can no longer uphold the standard of conduct that should reasonably be expected of a man of his stature and experience.

Either way, it is hard to have confidence that our people will be safe in any future process where he is present.

Speaking on my own conduct, having seen a video recording of the meeting, I am disappointed in my own response as it was not sufficiently firm given the situation.

We would like a clear response to this complaint.

We understand there is already a move from some sectors to remove Mr Bolger.

We have no part in that, and we raise this complaint purely on its own merits.

If we are to support the Takutai Kapiti process as a Board, we need to have trust and confidence in the safety of the people we were elected to represent.

We therefore leave it to KCDC and Takutai Kapiti to assure us that we can do so.

Regards,  
Bede

Bede Laracy

Chair - Raumati Community Board

0274473779

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