

OIR: 2526/155

17 October 2025

[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 **9 October 2025** requesting the following information:

- 1. How could the councils of Wellington get some joined up thinking with the electoral roll? If a resident of one area contacts the council to tell them they are moving and therefore closing their rates account in one house, and if that family are moving out of their area, then that council should notify the electoral people of that fact. When that family registers for rates at a new council, then that council should notify the electoral roll that they have a new resident. The rates office in both councils can check with the family where they are moving from/came from/going to. Then it is up to the electoral roll to contact the family at the new residence to confirm the updated details.***

[Section 89C](#) of the Electoral Act 1993 sets out the Elector's responsibility if they change their place of residence to a different electoral district. While your feedback on the Council's potential involvement in this is noted, the law stipulates that the Elector communicates the change directly to the Electoral Commission. Additionally, the notification of change of ownership of a rating unit¹ that the Council receives under [Section 31](#) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 does not include enough information to match to Elector information².

Because of the above legislative requirements, which advise that an individual is responsible for updating their information directly with the Electoral Commission, the Council is unable to change the current process.

¹ A notification of change of ownership of a rating unit is prepared by the vendor and purchaser solicitor as part of property conveyancing. It advises Council who the previous and new owners are, the settlement date and in the case of a sale, the sale price. In simple terms the notification advises new ownership and Council then updates the rating information database and district valuation roll. The only person/s recorded in the rating information database are the owner/s of the rating unit, with some provisions for long term lessees. Other occupants, who may be Electors but not owners, are not recorded in the notification of change of ownership of a rating unit or the rating information database.

² For example, it does not record a person's date of birth or electoral status, nor would it include all Electors potentially registered on the electoral role. See footnote above.

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

2. ***It would have helped me today, and it will certainly help me in the future to understand the workings of council if you had a flow chart/family tree type of thing that shows the hierarchy of each council and its sub committees. Wellington City council at the top and in Kapiti's case the councils and sub committees below in their respective order and which councillors sit in each area. This could be displayed in the council offices all the time and at election time, the same graphic could be printed in the brochure you send out, to make it easier for the voting public to see where each candidate is hoping to serve. If you already have one of these, please send me a copy. I did mention this to the ladies who were working on the special votes desk today and one of them thought this was a marvellous idea.***

Councils in the Greater Wellington Region are not established as a Unitary Authority in the same way as Auckland City Council and each council is established as a standalone territorial authority under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). This means the hierarchy requested in the question does not exist.

Further to the above, at the start of each new triennium, following the local government elections, each territorial authority sets its own governance structure which defines the decision-making powers delegated from the Council to a committee and/or community board. This structure will be uploaded to the Council's website once the structure for this triennium has been set at an upcoming Council meeting. This structure is set for each Council separately and the structures amongst councils in the wider Wellington Region are not connected. The Kāpiti Coast District Council Structure for the 2022-2025 triennium can be found here: <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/council/about-council/the-role-of-council/governance-structure/>

Under [Section 15 of the LGA](#), local authorities within the region must enter into an agreement documenting their protocols for communicating, co-ordinating and collaborating. The agreement for the 2022-2025 triennium can be found on the Council's website here: <https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/council/about-council/the-role-of-council/governance-structure/>

3. ***I don't agree with councils or governments awarding themselves pay increases over and above what the rest of the working public receive. If the average annual pay rise in your particular field in the public arena is 1%, then so should it be in the council. Especially with the enormous rate increase that you have just levied on us and hopefully yourselves. Which leads me to another question, do people who work in the council and the government get a discount on their rates?***

No, people who work in the Council and the Government do not receive a discount on their rates.

Ngā mihi,



Mark de Haast
Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū