

12 January 2021

Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: 7765106 (OIR: 2021-140).

I refer to your information request we received on 27 November 2020 for all documentation relating to the Council agreement to offer a loan of \$500,000 to Air Chathams. You advised that you have been informed of the offer by very reliable sources.

I can confirm that the Council did consider the issue of whether it should offer a loan to Air Chathams at a confidential briefing. A loan facility was subsequently prepared. The terms of the loan facility are confidential. On this basis your request for all documentation relating to the offer of a loan is declined under sections 7(2)(b)(ii) on the grounds that making the information available would be likely unreasonably to prejudice Air Chathams commercial position. In addition the information is withheld under section 7(2)(c) of LGOIMA on the grounds that the terms of the loan facility include an obligation of confidence and making the information available would be likely to damage the public interest.

I am satisfied that the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest that the information is made available, section 7(1) refers.

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



James Jefferson
Acting Chief Executive