

OIR: 2324/843

4 April 2024

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Tēnā koe ██████,

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

Thank you for your email of **15 March 2024** requesting the following information:

A key question on which any assessment of representation options needs to be based is what will be the electoral population in each existing general ward assuming those electors currently on the Maori roll remain on that roll and thus become electors for the Maori ward and cease to be electors for the general ward they were previously in.

The position shown on the Local Government Commission website is as follows:

WARD	Population	Members	Population-member ratio	Difference from quota	% Difference from quota
Ōtaki Ward	9,320	1	9,320	973	11.65
Paraparaumu Ward	24,700	3	8,233	-114	-1.36
Waikanae Ward	15,650	2	7,825	-522	-6.26
Paekākāriki-Raumati Ward	8,760	1	8,760	413	4.95
Subtotal	58,430	7	8,347		
At large	58,430	3	19,477		

and

Māori Electoral Population	General Electoral Population	Total Population	Current Councillors	MEP / GEP per Councillor
4,990	53,400	58,390	10	0.93

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

The ratios in the first table above are the position prior to the Maori ward being added. The effect of the reduction in populations for the general wards needs to be known in order for the new ratios to be available to Kapiti people in expressing their view on the representation options. The reduction is unlikely to be the same percentage for different wards.

I urge you to ask the Council staff to do the necessary calculations and publish the results before 4 April when the current “have your say” period ends.

General background

Council is conducting a representation review triggered by Council’s decision to establish a Māori ward in November 2023. For the establishment of the Māori ward to take effect for the 2025 local body elections, the representation review must be completed this year in line with the statutory timeframes under the Local Electoral Act 2001.

We are currently in the early engagement phase of the representation review process and are seeking feedback from the community on how voters would like to be represented to facilitate the development of ‘initial proposal’ options for formal community consultation. Initial proposal options will be brought to Council in around June 2024.

Now that the preliminary engagement survey has closed, the results of early community engagement will be shared with elected members to assist in shaping the development of initial representation proposal options. In developing the initial proposal options, Council officers are required to consider a range of factors including fair representation, and as part of this officers will provide elected members with an analysis of population data for all options.

Once Council has resolved an initial proposal, there will be a formal consultation process where the community will be provided with an opportunity to formally submit on the proposal.

More information on the representation review and process, including frequently asked questions can be found on Council’s website [Me pēwhea te whakakanohi i a koe anō? – How would you like to be represented? | Have Your Say | Kāpiti Coast \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/maori-ward-representation-review).

Preliminary engagement information and options

The preliminary community engagement material contained three concepts for incorporating the Māori ward for the community to consider when providing early feedback. These concepts were aimed at providing an idea of what may be possible; however, are not the only options for the inclusion of the Māori ward.

Table 1: Preliminary engagement concepts

Potential representation concepts				
Current Council structure No current Māori ward Councillor 1 Mayor 10 councillors 3 districtwide Councillors 7 general ward Councillors 20 Community Board Members	Concept 1 Add Māori ward Councillor to current structure and increase the number of Councillors around the Council table by one.	Concept 2 Replace one districtwide Councillor with a Māori ward Councillor and retain the same number of Councillors around the Council table.	Concept 3 Replace one general ward Councillor with a Māori ward Councillor and retain same number of Councillors around the Council table.	
	1 Mayor	1 Mayor	1 Mayor	1 Mayor
	11 councillors 3 districtwide Councillors 7 general ward Councillors 1 Māori ward Councillor – covering the entire district	10 councillors 2 districtwide Councillors 7 general ward Councillors 1 Māori ward Councillor – covering the entire district	10 councillors 3 districtwide Councillors 6 general ward Councillors 1 Māori ward Councillor – covering the entire district	Note: The impact on ward boundaries would be more significant depending on which ward Councillor was replaced.
	20 Community Board Members	20 Community Board Members	20 Community Board Members	20 Community Board Members

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, there are a number of factors that must be considered when carrying out a representation review. One of these is that each ward (general and Māori) must meet the fair representation rule, which is that the population represented by each councillor of each ward must be +/- 10% of the other wards and councillors.

To test whether the concepts (illustrated in Table 1 above) are viable based on the current population data from the 2023 census¹, Council officers sought confirmation from Statistics New Zealand. To calculate the viability of options Council had to request the data from Statistics New Zealand (rather than Council officers doing the calculations) as the agency does not release specific population data by individual meshblock and instead releases population estimates for specific representation arrangement concepts as requested by Councils. There is a fee to request this information from Statistics New Zealand.

For concepts 1 and 2 (illustrated in Table 1 above), to meet the fair representation rule, the general ward boundaries can remain the same as the general ward boundaries in Council’s current representation arrangements and the number of ward Councillors in each of the general wards can also remain the same. Concept 1 involves adding the

¹ The data supplied by the Local Government Commission in your email is based on the population data from the 2018 census.

Māori ward seat in addition to the existing general ward seats. Concept 2 involves replacing one of the district-wide seats with the Māori ward seat.

Statistics New Zealand have provided the 2023 census population data to confirm that the fair representation rule is met for both concepts 1 and 2 (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: Table with Population Data for Concepts 1 and 2

Ward	Māori Electoral Population	General Electoral Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota*	% Difference from Quota
Ōtaki General Ward	N/A	7,380	1	7,380	-269	-3.51%
Paraparaumu General Ward	N/A	23,100	3	7,700	51	0.67%
Waikanae General Ward	N/A	14,950	2	7,475	-174	-2.27%
Paekākāriki-Raumati General Ward	N/A	8,110	1	8,110	461	6.03%
Kāpiti Coast Māori Ward	4,930	N/A	1	4,930	N/A	The quota requirement does not apply to the Māori ward.**
District Total	4,930 (Māori electoral population) + 53,540 (General electoral population) = 58,470					

*The quota for concept one and two is 7,649. The quota is calculated as per section 19V of the Local Electoral Act 2001 whereby the total population the district is divided by the total number of ward councillors to be elected within the district.

**The Local Electoral Act 2001 provides the calculation to determine whether a Council can establish a Māori ward based on its Māori Electoral Population compared to its General Electoral Population. Applying that calculation, the Kāpiti Coast District Council made a lawful decision to establish a Māori ward.

Concept 3 involves replacing a general ward seat with the Māori ward seat. The impact of this concept on the fair representation rule (+/-10%) depends on which general ward seat is replaced however Council officers have assessed that there is likely to be a significant impact on the fair representation rule (+/-10%) regardless of which ward councillor is replaced with the Māori ward seat, requiring boundary adjustment. This early in the engagement, what boundary adjustments may be required has not yet been calculated.

Council officers sought data from Statistics New Zealand to confirm what the impact would be on the fair representation rule (+/- 10% rule) where either a Waikanae or Paraparaumu general ward seat is replaced with a Māori ward seat. This data is outlined below at Tables 3 and 4. As set out in the data, these concepts do not comply with the fair representation rule (+/-10%) and therefore would require boundary adjustments to comply with the rule.

Council officers did not request data from Statistics New Zealand on what the impact would be on the fair representation rule (+/- 10% rule) if either the Ōtaki general ward seat or the Paekākāriki-Raumati general ward seat was replaced. As both wards have only 1 ward councillor as it currently stands, officers did not deem the scenario where this reduces to 0 to be viable.

Table 3: Concept 3 - Paraparaumu General Ward – reduced to 2 Ward Councillors

Ward	Māori Electoral Population	General Electoral Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota*	% Difference from Quota
Ōtaki General Ward	N/A	7,380	1	7,380	-1,543	-17.30%
Paraparaumu General Ward	N/A	23,100	2	11,550	2,627	29.44%
Waikanae General Ward	N/A	14,950	2	7,475	-1,448	-16.23%
Paekākāriki-Raumati General Ward	N/A	8,110	1	8,110	-813	-9.11%
Kāpiti Coast Māori Ward	4,930	N/A	1	4,930	N/A	The quota requirement does not apply to the Māori ward.**
District Total	4,930 (Māori electoral population) + 53,540 (General electoral population) = 58,470					

*The quota for this concept is 8,923. The quota is calculated as per section 19V of the Local Electoral Act 2001 whereby the total population of the district is divided by the total number of ward councillors to be elected within the district.

**The Local Electoral Act 2001 provides the calculation to determine whether a Council can establish a Māori ward based on its Māori Electoral Population compared to its General Electoral Population. Applying that calculation, the Kāpiti Coast District Council made a lawful decision to establish a Māori ward.

Table 4: Concept 3 - Waikanae General Ward – reduced to 1 Ward Councillor

Ward	Māori Electoral Population	General Electoral Population	Members	Population per Member	Difference from Quota*	% Difference from Quota
Ōtaki General Ward	N/A	7,380	1	7,380	-1,543	-17.30%
Paraparaumu General Ward	N/A	23,100	3	7,700	-1,223	-13.71%
Waikanae General Ward	N/A	14,950	1	14,950	6,027	67.54%
Paekākāriki-Raumati General Ward	N/A	8,110	1	8,110	-813	-9.11%
Kāpiti Coast Māori Ward	4,930	N/A	1	4,930	N/A	The quota requirement does not apply to the Māori ward.**
District Total	4,930 (Māori electoral population) + 53,540 (General electoral population) = 58,470					

*The quota for this concept is 8,923. The quota is calculated as per section 19V of the Local Electoral Act 2001 whereby the total population the district is divided by the total number of ward councillors to be elected within the district.

**The Local Electoral Act 2001 provides the calculation to determine whether a Council can establish a Māori ward based on its Māori Electoral Population compared to its General Electoral Population. Applying that calculation, the Kāpiti Coast District Council made a lawful decision to establish a Māori ward.

The concepts set out in the preliminary engagement information are only some of the potential options that may be considered in the development of initial proposal options for the representation review. If the community engagement supports another concept or option that we haven't yet considered, Council officers will explore this in the preparation of initial proposal options for Council to consider.

Ngā mihi,



Mark de Haast
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Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū