

28 June 2022

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Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) (the Act) – reference: OIR 2122-291

I refer to your information request we received on 29 May 2022 for the following:

You have no doubt seen the below media press release article in relation to Elected Councillors standing for the Labour Party and having signed a binding agreement to gain Labour Party Financial & Electioneering Assistance, mandating that they have to represent the Labour's current and any future policies. This could be construed as unethical and open to corruption. and bribery.

I find this Abhorrent and contrary to New Zealand Democratic Society, for an elected Councillor, who being affiliated with a Central Government Party is mandated to prioritise the Political parties policies over that which would be the wishes of ratepayers.

- 1. Please advise if the Mayor is affiliated with a Central Government Political Party and advise which party/s**

This information is not held or collected through the Election Process. A request has been sent to the Mayor to disclose his affiliation but no response has been received at the date of this letter.

- 2. Please advise which Councillors and Community Board Elected members are affiliated with a Central Government Political Party and advise which party/s**

This information is not held or collected through the Election Process. A request was sent to all Elected Members and two have confirmed that they are affiliated with the Labour Party (Councillor Rob McCann and Councillor Janet Holborow).

- 3. Please have each Mayor, Councillor and Community Board member release what funding or other assistance they have received from their affiliated Central Government Political party when standing for election or when a sitting member.**

Campaign donations and expenses for all candidates are published on our website.

Please note that the Electoral Officer is not responsible for ensuring the information is correct, only that it is collected and published. Current member forms can be found on our website under [Expense returns - Kāpiti Coast District Council \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/expense-returns)

- 4. Please advise why when people are standing for Mayor, Councillor and Community Board elected positions that they do not have to advised it they are affiliated with a Political Party and statement that they are contracted to support their Political Party policies as a priority over that of the Ratepayers.**

This information is not required to be provided under the Local Electoral Act 2001 or the Local Electoral Regulations 2001. The Local Electoral Act under Section 55 allows for affiliations to be stated on nomination forms for the purposes of identifying that affiliation in the voting documents but there is no requirement to state such an affiliation for the nomination form to be valid.

- 5. Why has Kapiti Coast District Council WEB Page not reviled which Mayor, Councillor and Community Board members are associated with Political Parties and a statement of their obligations to their associated parties with links (as shown in the below press release).**

The affiliation information in the election process is only published if a candidate declares the information on their nomination form. It is published on our website under [Name and address list for candidates - 2019 Local Government Election - Kāpiti Coast District Council \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/name-and-address-list-for-candidates-2019-local-government-election-kapiti-coast-district-council)

- 6. Why when standing for Kapiti Coast District Council elections they are not mandated to state clearly of their billboards, leaflets and handouts their political party affiliation, what support (financial & electioneering assistance) and they receive for the Government Political Party that they are representing.**

This is not a requirement under the Local Electoral Act 2001 or the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.

- 7. When the Mayor, Councillor and Community Board members are voting or have been allocated to a Council Committee why are they not obliged to declare their Conflict of Interests and stating what Political Party Line that they have to follow and if not why not.**

Elected Members are currently asked to declare their interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) biannually and these interests are published on our website under [Declarations of interest - Kāpiti Coast District Council \(kapiticoast.govt.nz\)](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/declarations-of-interest-kapiti-coast-district-council).

Elected Members are also required to declare any conflicts of interest at the beginning of each meeting.

Ngā mihi



Janice McDougall

Group Manager People and Partnerships
Te Kaihautū, ngā Rangapū, Tāngata hoki