

27 April 2022



Dear 

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2022-20

Thank you for your email and letter of 28 March 2022 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

"In light of the Government's announcement on the 23 March that 'vaccination passes' will no longer be required from 4 April 2022, many other councils across the country are dropping their requirements for 'vaccination passes' at council facilities.

Please advise urgently when Carterton District Council will be doing the same and allowing ALL ratepayers access to ALL facilities. ...

- 1. The costs for hiring security across CDC facilities from the time the requirements for passes were first implemented on 3 December 2021?*
- 2. The costs of implementing the technology to support these requirements?*
- 3. Can CDC provide information about how securely the private health information of residents and ratepayers has been held or whether CDC is aware of any data breaches?*
- 4. The loss (or otherwise) of revenue across council facilities especially the Carterton Events Centre?*
- 5. The total costs of re-hiring staff and the number of job losses council experienced by forcing mandates on its employees, including total days sick leave for staff who experienced adverse reactions following vaccination or who caught COVID?"*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

In light of the Government's announcement on the 23 March, our response to your question was sent on 25 March 2022 attached as **Appendix 1**.

My response to your request is provided in the number order of your request below.

1. *The costs for hiring security across CDC facilities from the time the requirements for passes were first implemented on 3 December 2021?*

Additional costs for staff and security to check passes at the swimming pool and the Events Centre totalled \$15,070.

2. *The costs of implementing the technology to support these requirements?*

No cost incurred as the Council used existing equipment.

3. *Can CDC provide information about how securely the private health information of residents and ratepayers has been held or whether CDC is aware of any data breaches?*

The NZ Pass Verifier Application (App) used, only verifies the presented pass as an authentic record of vaccination (or exemption from vaccination). It does not contain or provide any health information of the Pass holder. When the Pass is scanned, it does not inform the council if the person is fully vaccinated or not, just that they meet the vaccination requirements to get a pass. No medical information is displayed.

The NZ Pass Verifier App used does not store or collect the information from the Vaccine Pass. The council does not collect or record the information displayed on the NZ Vaccine Pass Verifier App. At no time has the council collected any medical information of the people using the vaccine pass to enter a premise. For more information about the security and spec of the NZ Pass Verifier App itself is publicly available from the Ministry of Health website here:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/my-covid-record-proof-vaccination-status/nz-pass-verifier>.

The NZ Pass Paper Verifier slips are held in a locked cabinet in the People & Wellbeing Office for the required period in accordance with MOH directions. We are not aware of any data breaches.

4. *The loss (or otherwise) of revenue across council facilities especially the Carterton Events Centre?*

We are not aware of any performances or events that were cancelled specifically due to vaccination passes being required at the Events Centre. Under the Government's Covid-19 Protection Framework red setting, 'events' were unable to go ahead at venues where vaccination passes were not required, and where vaccination passes were required, up to 100 people were able to attend.

We had two regular room bookings cancelled until the vaccination pass requirements were lifted. Revenue from these bookings over this period would have totalled \$4,710. These bookings would likely have been cancelled even if no vaccination passes were required. This is due to the limit on numbers for a 'gathering' under the Government's Covid-19 Protection Framework red setting being only 10 people if vaccination passes were not required.

5. The total costs of re-hiring staff and the number of job losses council experienced by forcing mandates on its employees, including total days sick leave for staff who experienced adverse reactions following vaccination or who caught COVID?

No staff have been re-hired. However, the council will be replacing a staff member whose employment was terminated because they did not meet the requirements of the Staff Vaccination Policy.

We do not record sick leave specifically for adverse reactions following vaccination.

A total of 31 days of sick leave have been taken by staff with COVID between 3 December 2021 and 4 April 2022.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email and letter. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA

Appendix 1

From: [Kelly Vatselias](#)
To: [LGOIMA Requests](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Doc 139538 FW: Emailing: Carterton District Council - LGOIMA Request - 28 March 2022
Date: Monday, 28 March 2022 1:23:44 pm

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

In regards to the first part of your request, following the Government's announcement about changes to the Covid Protection Framework, we have made the following changes to our facilities:

From 11:59PM, Friday 25 March

Scanning into Carterton District Council facilities no longer mandatory. COVID-19 tracking codes will remain in place for people who would like to use them.

From 9am, Tuesday 5 April (as Govt. changes come into effect 11:59pm on 4 April)

Vaccine Passes are NOT required at any Carterton District Council facilities. This means you no longer need a Vaccine Pass to enter the Carterton Events Centre and Library.

Please see our website for further information <https://cdc.govt.nz/update-on-council-facilities-at-covid-19-red-setting/>

We will respond to your other questions as outlined in our confirmation email below.

Kind regards

Kelly

KELLY VATSELIAS | Corporate Services Manager | CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
Phone: 06 379 4030 | DDI: 06 379 4049 | Mobile: 027 555 5970 | Email: kelly@cdc.govt.nz
PO Box 9, Carterton 5743 | 28 Holloway Street, Carterton | Website: www.cdc.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From: LGOIMA Requests <lgoima@cdc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 28 March 2022 1:15 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Doc 139538 FW: Emailing: Carterton District Council - LGOIMA Request - 28 March 2022

Kia ora [REDACTED]

LGOIMA Request: 2022-20

Thank you for your email request of 28 March 2022 for the following:

"In light of the Government's announcement on the 23 March that 'vaccination passes' will no longer be required from 4 April 2022, many other councils across the country are dropping their requirements for 'vaccination passes' at council facilities.

Please advise urgently when Carterton District Council will be doing the same and allowing ALL ratepayers access to ALL facilities.

Please also provide the following information under LGOIMA.

1. The costs for hiring security across CDC facilities from the time the requirements for passes were first implemented on 3 December 2021?
2. The costs of implementing the technology to support these requirements?
3. Can CDC provide information about how securely the private health information of residents and ratepayers has been held or whether CDC is aware of any data breaches?
4. The loss (or otherwise) of revenue across council facilities especially the Carterton Events Centre?
5. The total costs of re-hiring staff and the number of job losses council experienced by forcing mandates on

its employees, including total days sick leave for staff who experienced adverse reactions following vaccination or who caught COVID?"

Your request is being handled under the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act (1987). You can expect a reply no later than 28 April 2022, which is 20 working days from the date we received your request. The response date shown takes into account:

1. Good Friday (15 April 2022)
2. Easter Monday (18 April 2022)

Ngā mihi,

LGOIMA Requests| CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Email: lgoima@cdc.govt.nz

Phone: (06) 3794030 | PO Box 9 Carterton 5743 | 28 Holloway Street Carterton 5713 | Website:

www.cdc.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Monday, 28 March 2022 11:39 am

To: Geoff Hamilton <geoffh@cdc.govt.nz>

Subject: Emailing: Carterton District Council - LGOIMA Request - 28 March 2022

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Carterton District Council - LGOIMA Request - 28 March 2022

Note: To protect against computer viruses, email programs may prevent you from sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your email security settings to determine how attachments are handled.