

14 November 2023

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2023-78

Thank you for your email of 1 November 2023 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

1. *How many workshops have your council had since 1 November 2022?*
2. *How many public excluded items have been on your council's agenda since 1 November 2022?*
3. *Does your council have any comment on Boshier's call to open workshops to the public?*
4. *Will your council have a workshop to discuss this issue?*

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

The response to your request is in the number order below.

Question 1

CDC has had 63 workshops from 1 November 2022 to 1 November 2023.

Question 2

I am refusing your request under section 17(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available. It can be found in our website in the following link: <https://carterton.infocouncil.biz/>.

Question 3

Workshops are primarily used to give elected members training, updates and presentations from staff and outside organisations on running the business that is Council. It provides elected members the opportunity to gain knowledge on complex matters and ask questions in a protected environment, which better equips them for public meetings. You will see from the passionate debates our Council has at its public meetings that no decisions are made at workshops. The Council has not had any discussions at this stage on whether to open workshops to the public.

Question 4

The Council has not set a workshop date to discuss this topic at this stage.

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. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at comms@cdc.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. 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