

30 April 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2024-24

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2024 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

“Several months back the minister for local government told the justice committee to stop work on hearing submissions on the votes for 16 year olds because councils were far too busy with other things to be bothered with that.

I challenged him on that as it is the electoral commission that compiles the rolls and that all the councils had to do was send out voting papers and count the returned votes.

The minister agreed that the electoral commission did indeed compile the rolls, but councils were never-the-less still too busy.

My assessment is that nationally the 16 and 17 year olds comprise a cohort of about 100,000 people, about 3 % of the population of voting age. Pro rata for Cartertons population that would be about 240 more people from a voting population of 8000 people.

I would think that the extra work involved for councils at election time would be minor, trivial almost.

I would appreciate a comment from the council officers if my assessment of the extra work involved is correct..

I realise of course that if the government refuses to progress the bill, that is their right. What I am challenging is being fobbed off with flippant comments that cannot be substantiated.”

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

In response to your request, CDC contracts an external provider for elections services, so most of the election work is undertaken by them.

External providers

- Developing an Election Handbook for those standing for election.
- Using the Electoral Roll to develop voting papers.



- Sending out voting papers.
- Counting the voting papers.

CDC

- Publicises the election to voters. There would be additional work in the pre-voting period for Government election services and our Communications Team to promote this change and encourage 16 and 17 year olds to vote.
- Takes questions from the public about the election.
- Receives and checks the nomination papers for those standing for election.
- Receives the voting papers which are then sent on to our contractor for counting.
- Takes final votes and special votes on Election Day.

While most of this work is not done by Council, we still have to pay for these services to be undertaken, and there may be an additional cost with this change

Please note, the Council 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. 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