

20 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2024-27

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2024 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

“Number of claims brought against CDC relating to its functions and performance under the Building Act 1991 and/or 2024 ... Total amount (including GST if any) Council paid out in settlements and/or judgments for building defect claims in the calendar year associated with the previous question ... Total legal and expert costs incurred during the calendar year for defending and/or resolving Building Defect Claims associated with the previous question ... Did any of the Building Defect Claims in the calendar year involve natural hazards as defined in s 71(3) of the Building Act 2004? (Y/N) ... How many Building Defect Claims in the calendar year involved buildings built by Group Housing Companies (Group Housing Company definition - builds or built more than 10 homes per year) ...”

We thank you for alerting us of your original request of 29 February 2024. We apologise as the original request does not appear to have been received into our LGOIMA email box.

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

We can confirm, in the last 10 years there has been one claim made against CDC. The claim made was not associated with natural hazards or with a group of housing company.

In response to the settlement claim amount requested, the release of the information would breach the confidentiality agreement. I am refusing this part of your request under section 7(2)(c) of the Act, to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence.

For the additional information you requested, we have determined that it would involve substantial collation or research. Given the amount of resource required to process the additional information requested, we have decided to provide you with options before we provide you with our formal decision for this part of your request. The options are as follows:

- Refuse your request under section 17(f) of Act, or
- Proceed with your request, but a charge will be made for the requested information to be made available. The first hour is free. The charge will be for professional services, the hourly rate is \$120.00 an hour.

Please email your chosen option to: lgoima@cdc.govt.nz.

Where information has been withheld under section 7(2), I have considered, as required under section 7(1) of the Act, the public interest considerations favouring its release. I have identified no public interest considerations which outweigh the need to withhold information at this time.

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

28 Holloway Street, Carterton, Wairarapa | PO Box 9, Carterton, 5743 |
lgoima@cdc.govt.nz | 06 379 4030 | www.cdc.govt.nz

LGOIMA ID: 2024-27