

14 October 2024



Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2024-49

Thank you for your email of Monday 11 October 2024 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

- *“What is your council's current policy in relation to whether elected member workshops and briefings are open to the public?”*
- *Did your council open up, or is it in the process of opening up, these workshops and briefings to be "open to the public by default" in line with the Ombudsman's recommendations in his "Open for Business" report of October 2023?*
- *If you have opened up, or are intending to open up, these workshops and briefings to the public, how are you doing so? (e.g. internet livestreaming, public attendance in person, after the fact video or audio recordings" etc)”*

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

Our CDC actions from the ‘Open for Business’ report from the Chief Ombudsman’s investigation into council meetings and workshops can be viewed in our website here: [Agendas and Minutes : Carterton District Council \(infocouncil.biz\)](#). Refer to our Ordinary Council Meeting agenda of 14 February 2024, item 7.5 CDC Actions from the Chief Ombudsman’s report on Council meetings and workshops, page 148 to 153.

CDC has adopted a principle of openness by default for all workshops (and briefings, forums etc.), including a commitment to record a clear basis for closure where justified, on a case-by-case basis.

CDC’s workshop and minutes are made available to the public and can be viewed in the same link as above.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA