

20 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2025-09

Thank you for your email of Thursday 6 March 2025 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

- “1. In the 2024 calendar year, how many workshops did your council hold?*
- 2. How many of them were open to the public?*
- 3. How many were closed to the public and for what reasons?*
- 4. What process does your council have for ensuring the community is notified of each workshop?*
- 5. What is your council's stance on videoing workshops and uploading them online for the public to view?*
- 6. Was your council contacted by the Ombudsman to reiterate his expectations on workshops?”*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act). My response to your request is in the number order below.

1. In the 2024 calendar year, how many workshops did your council hold?

For the year 2024 council held 27 workshops.

2. How many of them were open to the public?

Eighteen were open to the public.

3. How many were closed to the public and for what reasons?

Nine workshops were closed to the public for the following reasons:

- 2 – Not open to the public before CDC made the decision to make workshops open to the public
- 6 – Commercial sensitivity
- 1 – Half of the meeting was closed to the public for privacy reasons.

4. What process does your council have for ensuring the community is notified of each workshop?

Advertising workshops - Workshops are published monthly in the public notice section of free weekly Wairarapa newspaper. This is done in conjunction with monthly notifications of Council and committee meetings that will occur the following month.

Members of the public are advised to check the Council website for workshops that are convened after the date of publication of the monthly meeting schedule.

Website information on workshops - In addition, all workshops are notified on the Carterton District Council website in three places:

- The meetings schedule /calendar - [Meetings | Carterton District Council](#)
- A workshop tab on the Meetings page [Meetings | Carterton District Council](#)
- The agenda and minutes are available on the Council website - [Agendas and Minutes : Carterton District Council](#)

5. What is your council's stance on videoing workshops and uploading them online for the public to view?

Council does not currently post recordings of workshops online. Council have asked to review this position at the upcoming 2nd April 2025 Ordinary Council meeting.

6. Was your council contacted by the Ombudsman to reiterate his expectations on workshops?"

Yes.

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. 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA