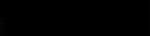


2 March 2026



Tēnā koe 

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2026-11

Thank you for your email of Thursday 29 January 2026 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) requesting the following information:

"...is for an article on sovereign citizens and individuals espousing sovereign beliefs. However, I tried to avoid using these words in the LGOIMA request, as people might not identify themselves as such, or the council might not have recorded the interactions with them using these words. So, I tried to use general/broad words in the request.

If possible, I'd like to use the original timeframe in the request (January 2022-today), unless the request was to be declined because of this.

Here are some clarifications that might help refine the scope of the request:

Question 1 *refers to issues and problems faced by council's employees specifically. It would be complaints staff have raised about interactions with the public. Especially on matters triggered by people harassing or targeting the council or specific employees.*

Questions 2-3 *are about issues and problems triggered by sovereign citizens disputing the council's authority or refusing to pay rates, fines and fees citing pseudo-laws arguments.*

Question 4, *without using the words 'paper terrorism', hints at the practice of flooding councils with LGOIMA requests. This is done by organised groups or individuals who are trying to clog the council or are disputing the council's authority. So, I would be interested in those specific instances.*

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

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If it helps to further refine my request: what I'm interested in is people who are challenging the council's jurisdiction, or citing maritime/admiralty laws, or claiming rates are unlawful, or using pseudo-legal terminology when engaging with the council."

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

Question 1

CDC has regularly received Notice of Default / Notice to Principal and other assorted pseudo-legal letters and emails from sovereign citizens and self-appointed sheriffs. There have been no reported staff complaints following interactions with these individuals and organisations.

Questions 2-3

CDC has no reported issues regarding sovereign citizens, sheriffs and other similar organisations disputing the Council's authority or refusing to pay rates, fines and fees citing pseudo-laws arguments.

Question 4

CDC has not received any LGOIMA requests by organised groups or individuals attempting to clog Council with pseudo-legal arguments or disputing the Council's authority.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

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