

10 May 2022

Kia ora

LGOIMA response and Cr Rush's use of twitter

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received via twitter on 15 April 2022. You requested the following information:

Part A

all internal and external correspondence, reports, tweets, and investigation details related to Sea Rush's "localbod1" twitter account.

Part B

Can this also include the same info relating to the council tweet, below, claiming that there was no official information relating to the tweet.



More

Part A

The Office of the Mayor can confirm that there was no Code of Conduct complaint made into Councillor Rush's use of twitter account Localbod1 so no investigation was warranted. Therefore, no information is held. It should also be pointed out that Cr Rush confessed by letter to Mayor Foster that he was indeed responsible for the Twitter account. The letter was voluntarily released by this office to media on Thursday 14 April. Please see attached.

Part B

Please see the attached correspondence. Note cell phone numbers have been redacted in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the Act.

We have also consulted with Councillor Rush who advised he did seek external legal advice to the three-hat doctrine. Councillor Rush advises the legal advice was legally privileged and is withheld under section 7(2)(g) of the Act.

Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards



Gareth Hancock
Team Leader Official Information

From: [Dave Burgess](#)
Subject: Wellington Mayor accepts formal apology over councillor use of an anonymous Twitter account.
Date: Thursday, 14 April 2022 3:03:55 pm
Attachments: [Councillor Rush's letter to Mayor Foster.jpg](#)
[Image001.png](#)

NEWS RELEASE

14 April 2022

Wellington Mayor accepts formal apology over councillor use of an anonymous Twitter account

Mayor Andy Foster has received and accepted a formal apology from Councillor Sean Rush over the councillor's use of anonymous Twitter account LocalBod1.

Mayor Foster stands by previous media comments that he thought it unwise for any elected official to run an anonymous account on any social media platform.

"It's plain to see that Cr Rush also came to this conclusion and while his actions left him open to criticism, he also deserves credit for publicly admitting the error of his ways. It is something all elected officials can learn from."

A copy of Cr Rush's letter to the Mayor is attached.

Mayor Foster considers this matter closed and will be making no further comment.

//ENDS

[Dave Burgess](#)

Principal Communications Specialist | Office of the Mayor | Wellington City Council

Phone: 021 391 847

Email: dave.burgess@wcc.govt.nz



To His Worship, the Mayor of Wellington
Andy Foster

14 April 2022
By Email: mayor@wcc.govt.nz

Dear Andy,

You will be aware of allegations surrounding an anonymous Twitter account and whether it was mine.

The incident has weighed heavily on my conscience. Accordingly, I wish to advise you I indeed initiated and was the sole manager of the account. It has now been deactivated.

I set it up, initially, as a channel to monitor tweets from Councillors and others that were being brought to my attention by other Councillors or friends. In my view, they were often inaccurate or unbalanced perspectives but sometimes abusive or, at their worst, threatening (not from any Councillor I happen to add).

I would contact colleagues by text/phone regarding the more serious concerns. This resulted in corrective action on 2 or 3 occasions.

Mostly, my tweets were to correct the record from my perspective. But on other occasions, I was drawn into adopting the abrupt style and rhetoric of Twitter which, albeit lacking profanity or malice, the comments fell short of my personal standards.

It was poor judgement from me to maintain an anonymous account to address inaccuracies about me out I wanted to minimise the risk of personal attacks on me and my family, which as we all know is a prevalent part of politics today, especially on Twitter. I thoroughly regret this whole sorry saga and ask that you put it down to political naivety from which I will learn.

While my initial intentions were above board, the result was poor and I apologise unreservedly to you, our fellow Councillors, and my constituents.

This episode arose after I was doing my job of identifying gaps in the collective skill set of the Board of Wellington Water and concerns with the recent Board selection process. I look forward to continuing to apply this type rigour around processes to secure good outcomes for Wellington.

Yours sincerely



Sean Rush

Wellington City Councillor

Eastern Ward
Chair of the Infrastructure Committee

From: [BUS: Assurance](#)
To: [Jennifer Parker](#); [Richard MacLean](#); [Simone Borgstede](#); [Stephen McArthur](#); [Dave Burgess](#); [Catherine Hutton](#); [Michael Algar](#); [Sehai Orgad](#)
Cc: [Mediacomms](#); [BUS: Assurance](#); [Kristina Shavez](#); [Beth Keightley](#)
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff
Date: Friday, 25 March 2022 4:22:56 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Hey team

Just spoke to Jen.

We have two options:

- Faster response. Refer them to Georgina's response saying is what is available publicly.
- Slower option. We check with Councillor Rush if he holds official information held in his capacity as a Councillor relevant to the account. That way we can probably (if the case) say we hold no official information.

Slower option is the formal response, as it will run through our LGOIMA process. So it won't be an instance response.

I support the formal response more.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 4:01 pm
To: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Algar <Michael.Algar@wcc.govt.nz>; Sehai Orgad <Sehai.Orgad@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>; Beth Keightley <Beth.Keightley@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Hi Richard
That that might be best – I'm trying to get hold of Gareth to help us get a view on this.
Jen

From: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 3:53 pm
To: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Algar <Michael.Algar@wcc.govt.nz>; Sehai Orgad <Sehai.Orgad@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>; Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>; Beth Keightley <Beth.Keightley@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

How about we just say that we acknowledge their request and that we'll look at the situation to see whether we have any grounds to get involved from a LGOIMA point of view. And leave it at that for now.

Does anyone have a view on this?

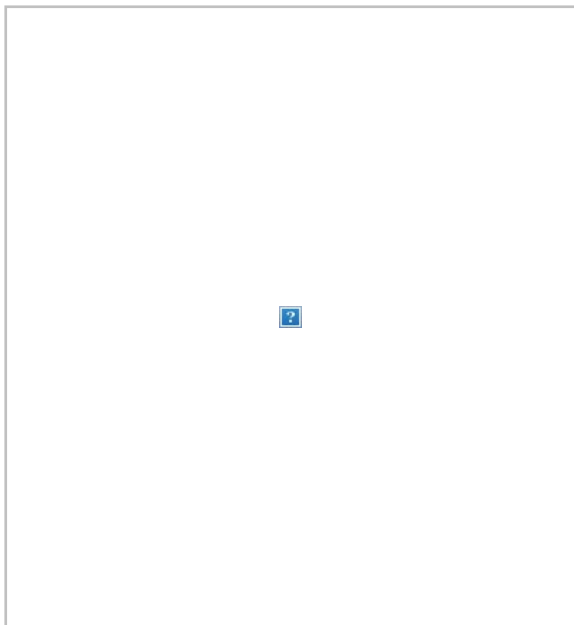
Cheers
Richard M

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 3:33 pm
To: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Algar <Michael.Algar@wcc.govt.nz>; Sehai Orgad <Sehai.Orgad@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Hello!

Still getting questions from Island Bay Health Streets, despite the account now being deleted!

I need to acknowledge their request and either answer or decline.



Could I please get a statement explaining that this does not come under the Official Information Act to respond with?

Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhōpori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: 25 March 2022 13:47

To: Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Algar <Michael.Algar@wcc.govt.nz>; Sehai Orgad <Sehai.Orgad@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/wellington/128166780/wellington-councillor-accused-of-praising-himself-via-secret-twitter-account>

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 1:42 pm

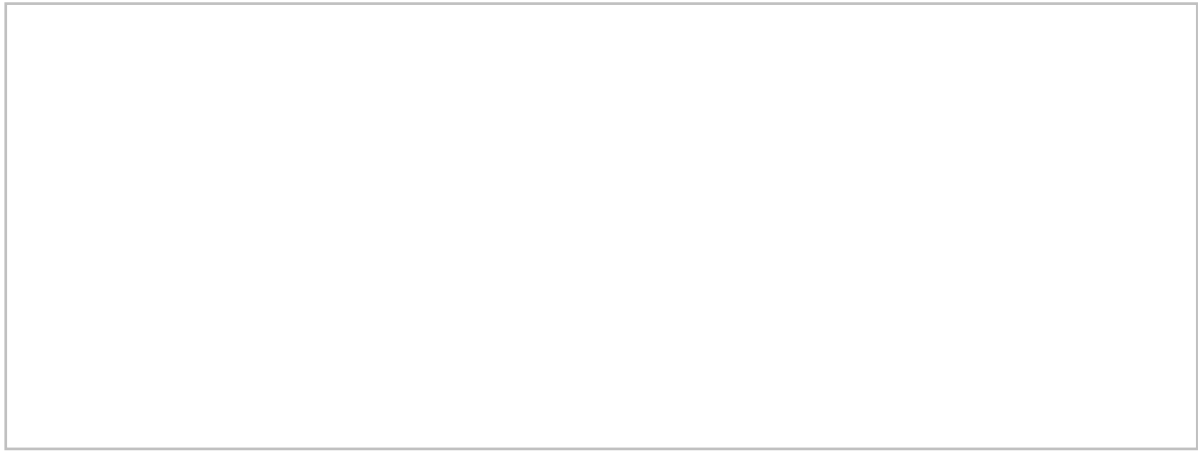
To: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: LGOIMA request - Councillor running twitter account?

Kia ora koutou

Some development on Twitter:



Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhōpori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 25 March 2022 11:35
To: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request - Councillor running twitter account?

Hi Kristina

Is this something we could check with Cr Rush?

He only has to answer if it is official information and held in his capacity as Councillor. If it is not held in capacity as a Councillor it does not exist.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

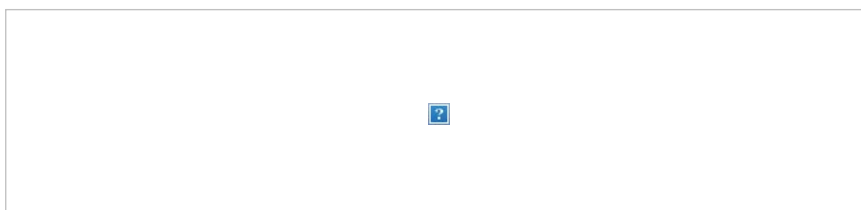
Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 11:09 am
To: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: LGOIMA request - Councillor running twitter account?

Kia ora koutou,

We have an interesting request from Twitter, but I am wondering if the Council would be able to share this kind of information publically?



This is the Twitter account in question: <https://twitter.com/localbod1>

Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: [Jennifer Parker](#)
To: [Gareth Hancock](#); [Kristina Shavez](#)
Cc: [Richard Leverington](#)
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff
Date: Tuesday, 29 March 2022 10:41:21 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thanks Gareth
Has this gone through Stephen already? If not, can you do that?
Also, the highlighted sentence below is not clear – perhaps you could tweak a little?
Ngā mihi
Jennifer

From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2022 10:35 am
To: Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Hi Jen and Kristina

Just getting back to this one. We will need to close this off.

I suggest we send to Councillor Rush:

Kia ora Councillor

We have received the below LGOIMA request from twitter. We have a statutory obligation to respond to this request.

For further context, the response only needs to cover information in your official capacity as a councillor. For example, information sent and received where you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor. **Information held in a personal capacity or no information exists will not be official information for the purposes of the LGOIMA.**

You may wish to respond to this one directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

Under LGOIMA a response is required by 27 April. If you do wish to respond directly, please let us know and Assurance will close this off.

We are happy to discuss this further.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

Duplicate

From: [Kristina Shavez](#)
To: [Jennifer Parker](#); [Gareth Hancock](#)
Cc: [Richard Leverington](#)
Subject: Re: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff
Date: Thursday, 31 March 2022 9:10:55 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

I will send to him this morning

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:02:39 AM
To: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Great. Thanks Gareth – and Kristina (in anticipation :)

From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 8:33 am
To: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Hello

Stephen has approved the below wording. Are you able to send this to the Councillor please.

Thanks heaps.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 8:15 am
To: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>; Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Happy with that

From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 29 March 2022 12:03
To: Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>; Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Kia ora Stephen

Jen suggested running this respond passed you to Councillor Rush about a LGOIMA received about the twitter request.

Kia ora Councillor

We have received the below LGOIMA request from twitter. We have a statutory obligation to respond to this request.

For further context, the response only needs to cover information in your official capacity as a councillor. For example, information sent and received where you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor. If there is no official information for the purposes of the LGOIMA we can respond accordingly.

You may wish to respond to this one directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

Under LGOIMA a response is required by 27 April. If you do wish to respond directly, please let us know and Assurance will close this off.

We are happy to discuss this further.

Jen I amended the wording.

Thanks for your help.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

Duplicate

From: [Kristina Shavez](#)
To: [Gareth Hancock](#)
Subject: LGOIMA request from twitter.
Date: Thursday, 31 March 2022 1:57:41 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Lol I will do

From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 1:54 pm
To: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter.

Yes

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 1:54 pm
To: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter.

Lol so to be clear I will cc in Stephen and Richard

From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 1:43 pm
To: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter.

Yes please

Thank you.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 12:27 pm

To: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: LGOIMA request from twitter.

Thanks Gareth I wasn't sure you wanted them all included.

Last question – do you want me to just cc in Assurance or Richard and Stephen too.

Ngā mihi nui,

Kristina Shavez

Team Leader, Elected Member Support Team | Democracy Services | Wellington City Council
Kaiārahi Tira tautoko mema pōti | Ratonga Manapori | Kaunihera o Pōneke

M: [REDACTED]

E Kristina.shavez@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz  

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From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 12:17 pm

To: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter.

Hey Kristina.

I just deleted one of the tweets, and left the main one.

Yes send later

Ngā mihi,

Gareth

From: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 12:08 pm

To: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: LGOIMA request from twitter.

Importance: High

Hi Gareth can you let me know if these are the attachments that go with this as theres been a lot of bits and pieces coming through.

Please amend where necessary and once I get the go ahead I will forward to Councillor Rush – probably best after the big meeting today....

Kia ora Councillor Rush,

We have received the below LGOIMA request from twitter. We have a statutory obligation to respond to this request.



Island Bay Healthy Streets 🚲🌳🚰

an hour ago

[VIEW PROFILE](#)

[@BrianDawsonWgtn](#) [@localbod1](#) If [@localbod1](#) does belong to Cllr Sean Rush then Brian's request really amounts to a LGOIMA request & Cllr Rush will need to answer honestly. In fact, let's formalise that [@WgtnCC](#). This is a LGOIMA request - does the [@localbod1](#) twitter account belong to Cllr Sean Rush?

For further context, the response only needs to cover information in your official capacity as a councillor. For example, information sent and received where you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor. If there is no official information for the purposes of the LGOIMA we can respond accordingly.

You may wish to respond to this one directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

Under LGOIMA a response is required by 27 April. If you do wish to respond directly, please let us know and Assurance will close this off.

We are happy to discuss this further. Our email is assurance@wcc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Kristina Shavez

Team Leader, Elected Member Support Team | Democracy Services | Wellington City Council
Kaiārahi Tira tautoko mema pōti | Ratonga Manapori | Kaunihera o Pōneke

M: [REDACTED]

E Kristina.shavez@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz  

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From: [Kristina Shavez](#)
To: [Councillor Sean Rush](#)
Cc: [BUS: Assurance](#)
Subject: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Thursday, 31 March 2022 4:39:06 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Kia ora Councillor Rush,

We have received the below LGOIMA request from twitter. We have a statutory obligation to respond to this request.



Island Bay Healthy Streets 🚲 🌳 🚴

an hour ago

[VIEW PROFILE](#)

@BrianDawsonWgtn @localbod1 If @localbod1 does belong to Cllr Sean Rush then Brian's request really amounts to a LGOIMA request & Cllr Rush will need to answer honestly. In fact, let's formalise that @WgtnCC. This is a LGOIMA request - does the @localbod1 twitter account belong to Cllr Sean Rush?

For further context, the response only needs to cover information in your official capacity as a councillor. For example, information sent and received where you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor. If there is no official information for the purposes of the LGOIMA we can respond accordingly.

You may wish to respond to this one directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

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We are happy to discuss this further. Should you wish to contact us directly our email is assurance@wcc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Kristina Shavez

Team Leader, Elected Member Support Team | Democracy Services | Wellington City Council
Kaiārahi Tira tautoko mema pōti | Ratonga Manapori | Kaunihera o Pōneke

M: [REDACTED]

E Kristina.shavez@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz  

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From: [Gareth Hancock](#)
To: [Richard Leverington](#)
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:03:00 pm
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hey Rich

The LGOIMA includes person to include a corporation sole, and also a body of persons. This group would likely meet this definition in the Ombudsman opinion. Section 2(1) of the LGOIMA.

Point two. Yes, either he or us can go back. The LGOIMA applies to officers and elected members, see below.

Ombudsman guidance, information held by elected members (ie, mayors and councillors) and officers and employees of an agency in their official capacity is deemed to be held by the agency itself. See section 2(3) of the LGOIMA.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 2:49 pm
To: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter

Hi Gary

Can you provide your expert view and some smart words to go back to Cr Rush.

My thoughts are:

- (i) the request has come from a 'person' in the same way as requests from FYI.org do
- (ii) we've offered to respond on Cr Rush's behalf. As you have said below we would need him to confirm if he holds any information in an official capacity to respond.
- (iii) Members are covered by the definition of local authority

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 2:37 pm
To: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Beth Keightley <Beth.Keightley@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter

Privileged and Confidential

Hi Richard, I'd like advice on how and if to respond to this request as I want to play it with a scrupulously straight bat. I have nothing to hide and my integrity is at stake. But I'd like some advice on the request based on the following:

1. The request has not come from a 'person' as that term is used in the Act (LOIMA). What are the implications?
2. The request has been made to WCC – not to me personally, so am I supposed to respond or is this a matter for WCC? Looking at section 10 of the Act, requests are made to 'local authorities' and not to 'members.'
3. The definition of 'official information' under LGOIMA "means any information held by a local authority". Looking at the definition of 'local authority' it doesn't seem to include 'members' (which seems odd) - (similar to the above point #2)?

Cheers

From: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 4:39 pm

To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor Rush,

We have received the below LGOIMA request from twitter. We have a statutory obligation to respond to this request.



Island Bay Healthy Streets 🚲 🌳 🚴

an hour ago

[VIEW PROFILE](#)

[@BrianDawsonWgtn @localbod1](#) If [@localbod1](#) does belong to Cllr Sean Rush then Brian's request really amounts to a LGOIMA request & Cllr Rush will need to answer honestly. In fact, let's formalise that [@WgtnCC](#). This is a LGOIMA request - does the [@localbod1](#) twitter account belong to Cllr Sean Rush?

For further context, the response only needs to cover information in your official capacity as a councillor. For example, information sent and received where you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor. If there is no official information for the purposes of the LGOIMA we can respond accordingly.

You may wish to respond to this one directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

Under LGOIMA a response is required by 27 April. If you do wish to respond directly, please let us know and Assurance will close this off.

We are happy to discuss this further. Should you wish to contact us directly our email is assurance@wcc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Kristina Shavez

Team Leader, Elected Member Support Team | Democracy Services | Wellington City Council
Kaiārahi Tira tautoko mema pōti | Ratonga Manapori | Kaunihera o Pōneke

M: [REDACTED]

E Kristina.shavez@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz  

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If received in error you are asked to destroy this email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated.



From: [Richard Leverington](#)
To: [BUS: Assurance](#)
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:41:35 pm
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

FYI – response to Cr Rush

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance

Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Richard Leverington
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:41 pm
To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Beth Keightley <Beth.Keightley@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor

Thanks for your email. I've answered each of your points below in italics. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance

Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 2:37 pm
To: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Beth Keightley <Beth.Keightley@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter

Privileged and Confidential

Hi Richard, I'd like advice on how and if to respond to this request as I want to play it with a scrupulously straight bat. I have nothing to hide and my integrity is at stake. But I'd like some advice on the request based on the following:

1. The request has not come from a 'person' as that term is used in the Act (LOIMA). What are the implications? *Section 2(1) of the LGOIMA defines person to include a corporation sole, and also a body of persons. This group would likely meet this definition in the Ombudsman opinion.*
2. The request has been made to WCC – not to me personally, so am I supposed to respond or is this a matter for WCC? Looking at section 10 of the Act, requests are made to 'local authorities' and not to 'members.' *WCC can respond on your behalf or you can respond directly. If you would like WCC to respond please provide any information deemed official to support the response.*

3. The definition of 'official information' under LGOIMA "means any information held by a local authority". Looking at the definition of 'local authority' it doesn't seem to include 'members' (which seems odd) - (similar to the above point #2)? *Guidance published by the Ombudsman is that information held by elected members and officers and employees of an agency in their official capacity is deemed to be held by the agency itself.*

Cheers

From: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 4:39 pm

To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor Rush,

We have received the below LGOIMA request from twitter. We have a statutory obligation to respond to this request.



Island Bay Healthy Streets 🚲🌳🧑🏻🚲

an hour ago

[VIEW PROFILE](#)

@BrianDawsonWgtn @localbod1 If @localbod1 does belong to Cllr Sean Rush then Brian's request really amounts to a LGOIMA request & Cllr Rush will need to answer honestly. In fact, let's formalise that @WgtnCC. This is a LGOIMA request - does the @localbod1 twitter account belong to Cllr Sean Rush?

For further context, the response only needs to cover information in your official capacity as a councillor. For example, information sent and received where you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor. If there is no official information for the purposes of the LGOIMA we can respond accordingly.

You may wish to respond to this one directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

Under LGOIMA a response is required by 27 April. If you do wish to respond directly, please let us know and Assurance will close this off.

We are happy to discuss this further. Should you wish to contact us directly our email is assurance@wcc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Kristina Shavez

Team Leader, Elected Member Support Team | Democracy Services | Wellington City Council
Kaiārahi Tira tautoko mema pōti | Ratonga Manapori | Kaunihera o Pōneke

M: [REDACTED]

E Kristina.shavez@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz  

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contents.

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From: [Gareth Hancock](#)
To: [Richard Leverington](#)
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Monday, 4 April 2022 11:26:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks Rich.

We could say: We have consulted Cr Rush and are advised there is no official information held in his official capacity as a councillor.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 April 2022 11:05 am
To: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter

Hi Gary

Cr Rush left a voice message late on Friday. He asked (hypothetically) if information that he holds in a personal capacity would be subject to the LGOIMA request. I haven't yet replied but I think it would help if we were to draft responses for Cr Rush to inform his thinking.

Could you draft responses based on:

1. WCC does not hold information that the Twitter account belongs to Cr Rush in his official capacity as a councillor. As such we are refusing the request on the grounds that...

OR

2. WCC can confirm that the Twitter account does belong to Cr Rush in his official capacity as Councillor.

Ngā mihi nui

Rich Leverington (He/Him)

Manager Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Richard Leverington
Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 3:41 pm
To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Beth Keightley <Beth.Keightley@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor

Thanks for your email. I've answered each of your points below in italics. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance

Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

M - [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 1 April 2022 2:37 pm

To: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Beth Keightley <Beth.Keightley@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter

Privileged and Confidential

Hi Richard, I'd like advice on how and if to respond to this request as I want to play it with a scrupulously straight bat. I have nothing to hide and my integrity is at stake. But I'd like some advice on the request based on the following:

1. The request has not come from a 'person' as that term is used in the Act (LOIMA). What are the implications? *Section 2(1) of the LGOIMA defines person to include a corporation sole, and also a body of persons. This group would likely meet this definition in the Ombudsman opinion.*
2. The request has been made to WCC – not to me personally, so am I supposed to respond or is this a matter for WCC? Looking at section 10 of the Act, requests are made to 'local authorities' and not to 'members.' *WCC can respond on your behalf or you can respond directly. If you would like WCC to respond please provide any information deemed official to support the response.*
3. The definition of 'official information' under LGOIMA "means any information held by a local authority". Looking at the definition of 'local authority' it doesn't seem to include 'members' (which seems odd) - (similar to the above point #2)? *Guidance published by the Ombudsman is that information held by elected members and officers and employees of an agency in their official capacity is deemed to be held by the agency itself.*

Cheers

From: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022 4:39 pm

To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor Rush,

We have received the below LGOIMA request from twitter. We have a statutory obligation to respond to this request.



Island Bay Healthy Streets 🚲🌳🚰

an hour ago

[VIEW PROFILE](#)

@BrianDawsonWgtn @localbod1 If @localbod1 does belong to Cllr Sean Rush then Brian's request really amounts to a LGOIMA request & Cllr Rush will need to answer honestly. In fact, let's formalise that @WgtnCC. This is a LGOIMA request - does the @localbod1 twitter account belong to Cllr Sean Rush?

For further context, the response only needs to cover information in your official capacity as a councillor. For example, information sent and received where you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor. If there is no official information for the purposes of the LGOIMA we can respond accordingly.

You may wish to respond to this one directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

Under LGOIMA a response is required by 27 April. If you do wish to respond directly, please let us know and Assurance will close this off.

We are happy to discuss this further. Should you wish to contact us directly our email is assurance@wcc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Kristina Shavez

Team Leader, Elected Member Support Team | Democracy Services | Wellington City Council
Kaiārahi Tira tautoko mema pōti | Ratonga Manapori | Kaunihera o Pōneke

M: [REDACTED]

E Kristina.shavez@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz  

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From: [Richard Leverington](#)
To: [Gareth Hancock](#)
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Monday, 4 April 2022 11:55:18 am
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Response to Cr Rush. Will let you know when I hear back. Thanks for your advice on this one.

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)
Manager Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Richard Leverington
Sent: Monday, 4 April 2022 11:54 am
To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor

Thanks for your voice message on Friday in which you asked whether any information held in a personal capacity would count as official information. In short, the answer is no.

On the basis that you do not hold information in your official capacity we propose going back to the requestor to say:

- We have consulted Cr Rush who has advised there is no official information held in his official capacity as a councillor.

Please let me know whether or not you agree with this approach.

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)
Manager Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

Duplicate

From: [Councillor Sean Rush](#)
To: [Richard Leverington](#)
Cc: [Gareth Hancock](#)
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Wednesday, 20 April 2022 10:49:00 am

Will do

From: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 April 2022 10:38 am
To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor

If you are free this morning please give me a call before 12.

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington](#) (He/Him)

Manager Risk & Assurance

Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

M  | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 April 2022 5:16 pm
To: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Hi Richard – a bit tied up at the moment – can we catch up tomorrow?

From: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 April 2022 5:06 pm
To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor

I'm following up on this LGOIMA request as we still need some information from you in order to respond.

As per the yellow highlighted text below, please advise any public social media accounts you use in an official capacity.

Ngā mihi nui

Duplicate

I

From: [Richard Leverington](#)
To: [Gareth Hancock](#)
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Wednesday, 27 April 2022 2:48:24 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

This was the email before the call where Cr Rush spoke about social media accounts he has used

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Richard Leverington
Sent: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:25 pm
To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Sure, I'll call you in a minute.

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:23 pm
To: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Thanks Richard. Are you available for a call?

From: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:03 pm
To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Kia ora Councillor

We have received another LGOIMA request about the use of social media. The request is specifically for:

I request copies in electronic form of all social media posts dealing with matters to do with the Council made by Councillor Sean Rush or on his direction or with his cooperation in which he used a name or an identifier other than his own. I request all such posts made in 2021 and 2022. By 'social media posts' I mean any posts on platforms such as (but not confined to) Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and any responses to such posts, by Cr Rush, or by others.

You will be aware of the following advice from the Chief Archivist.

<https://www.archives.govt.nz/manage-information/how-to-manage-your-information/digital/text-messages-and-other-communications>

Please also tell me what information or directions Cr Rush has received about the need to keep all social media posts and texts as public records.

Use of social media

We would only need to respond to accounts used in your official capacity as a Councillor. This information would be official information. If Assurance is to respond on your behalf, we would need a list of all your social media accounts you use in an official capacity and confirm they are public.

Directions all social media as public records

We have answered previous LGOIMA requests on the training and obligations Councillors receive when elected. We are also checking this part with the Mayor's office. If you do have anything specific you may wish to include please let Assurance know.

As before, you may wish to respond directly. Alternatively, Assurance is happy to assist with the response and provide advice. Assurance would require information deemed to be official if you require a response from them. Please do let us know if you require assistance.

Could you also indicate how you wish to proceed with the Island Bay Healthy Streets request below?

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance

Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Richard Leverington

Sent: Monday, 4 April 2022 1:19 pm

To: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

I'm wfh today but happy to try and answer any questions if you want to call.

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance

Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 4 April 2022 12:20 pm

To: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: LGOIMA request from twitter

Duplicate

Thanks. I'm coming into the office now if it's worth a chat.

From: [Richard Leverington](#)
To: [Gareth Hancock](#)
Subject: FW: LGOIMA request from twitter
Date: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:44:04 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Kia ora Gareth

Cr Rush has emailed his proposed response to the Island Bay Healthy Streets request. He is happy for Council to respond on his behalf. Can I leave it with you to coordinate with Stephen and the Comms people?

Thanks ever so much

Ngā mihi nui

[Rich Leverington \(He/Him\)](#)

Manager Risk & Assurance

Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

M [REDACTED] | E richard.leverington@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Councillor Sean Rush <Sean.Rush@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:36 pm
To: Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request from twitter

Hi Richard, thanks – I suspect I know who this has come from. Do you have an ID?

On the 'Island Bay Healthy Streets' request, I wanted to discuss this further. I certainly didn't construct a Twitter a/c for 'official purposes' nor to post 'official information.' I am sensitive to being named given the re4quest came to WCC. Could it be restated as follows:

“• We have consulted internally, including with Cr Rush, and advise there is no official information in regard to your request.

Duplicate

From: [Gareth Hancock](#)
To: [Jennifer Parker](#); [Richard MacLean](#); [Simone Borgstede](#); [Stephen McArthur](#); [Dave Burgess](#); [Catherine Hutton](#); [Baz Kaufman](#); [Sam Rossiter-Stead](#)
Cc: [Kristina Shavez](#); [Richard Leverington](#)
Subject: Cr Rush and Twitter - LGOIMA
Date: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:55:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Kia ora team

We have consulted with Councillor Rush over the below LGOIMA received on twitter.

Councillor Rush has confirmed he didn't construct a Twitter a/c for 'official purposes' nor to post 'official information.' We have also discussed with him on the phone and has reiterated that no official information exist. He has asked that we respond on his behalf with the following:

- We have consulted internally, including with Cr Rush, and advise there is no official information in regard to your request.

Let me know if you have any thoughts. We don't try to get the Councillor to respond directly.

If we are good, Simone are you able to respond, as we don't have access to twitter.

Happy to chat.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 3:33 pm

To: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Algar <Michael.Algar@wcc.govt.nz>; Sehai Orgad <Sehai.Orgad@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

Hello!

Still getting questions from Island Bay Health Streets, despite the account now being deleted!
I need to acknowledge their request and either answer or decline.

Could I please get a statement explaining that this does not come under the Official Information Act to respond with?

Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: 25 March 2022 13:47

To: Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Algar <Michael.Algar@wcc.govt.nz>; Sehai Orgad <Sehai.Orgad@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: developing issue re Cr Rush and Twitter - now on Stuff

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/wellington/128166780/wellington-councillor-accused-of-praising-himself-via-secret-twitter-account>

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 1:42 pm

To: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>; Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: LGOIMA request - Councillor running twitter account?

Kia ora koutou

Some development on Twitter:



Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: 25 March 2022 11:35

To: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: LGOIMA request - Councillor running twitter account?

Hi Kristina

Is this something we could check with Cr Rush?

He only has to answer if it is official information and held in his capacity as Councillor. If it is not held in capacity as a Councillor it does not exist.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 11:09 am

To: BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: LGOIMA request - Councillor running twitter account?

Kia ora koutou,

We have an interesting request from Twitter, but I am wondering if the Council would be able to share this kind of information publicly?



Island Bay Healthy Streets 🚲🌳🧑🏻‍🦺

an hour ago

[VIEW PROFILE](#)

@BrianDawsonWgtn @localbod1 If @localbod1 does belong to Cllr Sean Rush then Brian's request really amounts to a LGOIMA request & Cllr Rush will need to answer honestly. In fact, let's formalise that @WgtnCC. This is a LGOIMA request - does the @localbod1 twitter account belong to Cllr Sean Rush?

This is the Twitter account in question: <https://twitter.com/localbod1>

Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhōpori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: [Michael Algar](#)
To: [Gareth Hancock](#)
Cc: [Amber Walters](#)
Subject: RE: Cr Rush and Twitter - LGOIMA
Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2022 3:50:45 pm
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Thanks Gareth, much appreciated.

All good with me,
Michael

Michael Algar (He/Him)

Kaihautū | Chief of Staff
Te Tari Koromatua | Office of the Mayor
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council

Waea: [REDACTED] | **Īmera:** michael.algar@wcc.govt.nz | www.wellington.govt.nz

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council

Me Heke ki Poneke

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 06 April 2022 15:43
To: Michael Algar <Michael.Algar@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Cr Rush and Twitter - LGOIMA

Kia ora Michael

As discussed at the meeting. Below is the proposed response and some comments made by the Councillor.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Gareth Hancock
Sent: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:55 pm
To: Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>; Sam Rossiter-Stead <Sam.Rossiter-Stead@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Cr Rush and Twitter - LGOIMA

Kia ora team

We have consulted with Councillor Rush over the below LGOIMA received on twitter.

Councillor Rush has confirmed he didn't construct a Twitter a/c for 'official purposes' nor to post 'official information.' We have also discussed with him on the phone and has reiterated that no official information exist. He has asked that we respond on his behalf with the following:

- We have consulted internally, including with Cr Rush, and advise there is no official information in regard to your request.

Let me know if you have any thoughts. We don't try to get the Councillor to respond directly.

If we are good, Simone are you able to respond, as we don't have access to twitter.

Happy to chat.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Duplicate

From: [Simone Borgstede](#)
To: [Gareth Hancock](#)
Cc: [Sam Rossiter-Stead](#); [Richard Leverington](#)
Subject: RE: Cr Rush and Twitter - LGOIMA
Date: Friday, 8 April 2022 9:28:04 am
Attachments: [image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Mōrena Gareth,

Yes I'll try and find the original tweet and respond now

Sorry about the wait.

Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: Gareth Hancock <Gareth.Hancock@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 08 April 2022 08:19
To: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sam Rossiter-Stead <Sam.Rossiter-Stead@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Cr Rush and Twitter - LGOIMA

Kia ora Simone

Are you able to post this response up on twitter today.

Thanks for your help.

Ngā mihi,
Gareth

Gareth Hancock

Team Leader Official Information | Risk & Assurance
Ara Whaimana | Strategy and Governance
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council
M [REDACTED] | E gareth.hancock@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz

From: Gareth Hancock
Sent: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 3:55 pm
To: Jennifer Parker <Jennifer.Parker@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Catherine Hutton <Catherine.Hutton@wcc.govt.nz>; Baz Kaufman <Baz.Kaufman@wcc.govt.nz>; Sam Rossiter-Stead <Sam.Rossiter-Stead@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Kristina Shavez <Kristina.Shavez@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard Leverington <Richard.Leverington@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Cr Rush and Twitter - LGOIMA

Kia ora team

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Duplicate