



www.huttcity.govt.n

T 04 570 6666 F 04 569 4290

4 November 2022

Chris Milne fyi-request-20785-3980bd59@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request of 7 October 2022, to the Chief Executive of Hutt City Council, in which you ask for information about the removal of candidate signage prior to the local body elections. The Chief Executive has asked that I respond to your official information request.

The information you have requested is addressed below:

- 1. All correspondence within Hutt City Council and from Hutt City Council about the time extension regarding hoarding removal.
- 2. All correspondence, texts or any other messages received by anyone at Hutt City Council about the email on Thursday 6th or Friday 7th October 2022.
- 3. Information identifying who made the decision.
- 4. When the decision was made.
- 5. When the decision was communicated to candidates
- 6. How the decision was communicated to candidates
- 7. Whether all candidates were contacted at the same time.

The correspondence you requested in 1. and 2. above is enclosed. These communications also provide you with the information you requested in 3. above. Please note some names, email addresses and other personal information in these documents have been withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. In doing so, we considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

In answering questions 4-7 above, we advise that, on 6 October 2022, Hutt City Council sent the email to those election candidates who had applied to Hutt City Council to put election hoardings on Council land. Each recipient received the same email, but the timing of receipt varied marginally. Copies of these emails are enclosed, with the names of the recipients and their email addresses withheld under section 7(2)(a), to protect the privacy of those candidates who did (and who did not) apply to place hoardings on council land.

The decision to send this email was made on Thursday 6 October 2022, because the inclement weather could have restricted candidates' access to some hoardings or their ability to safely dismantle them.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā

Susan Sales

Soles

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Encl:

Correspondence and communications received and sent (internal and external)

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:11 pm

To:

Subject:

Election hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:10 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:12 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

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Thank you

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:12 pm

To: Subject:

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Thank you

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:14 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

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Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:14 pm

To:

Subject:

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Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:15 pm

To:

s 7(2)(a)

Cc: Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:17 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:17 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:18 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:19 pm

Hayley Craig

Sent: To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:22 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:23 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:23 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:24 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:24 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

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Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:25 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

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Thank you

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:25 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

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Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:30 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

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Thank you

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:30 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

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Thank you.

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Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:30 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

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Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:29 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

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Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:28 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:27 pm

To: Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:27 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:26 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:26 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From: Hayley Craig

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:31 pm

To:

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:31 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:32 pm

To:

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

From:

Hayley Craig

Sent:

Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:32 pm

To:

morgan.karen.4.huttcity@gmail.com

Subject:

Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you

Email thread 1

From: Bruce Hodgins bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz

Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 8:10 am

To: s 7(2)(a)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Election Hoarding signs

Thanks I spoke to I spoke to I spoke to I spoke to

Bruce Hodgins

Strategic Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: 04 570 6839 M: W: www.huttcity.govt.nz



From: 5 7(2)(a) >

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 4:50 PM

To: Bruce Hodgins < bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Election Hoarding signs

Hi Bruce

I had sent out an email to candidate reminding them of when signs need to go down, said you said this was ok to have signs go down Saturday. Do you mind replying to this one please.

Thank you

Kind regards

Administrator

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: M: S7(2) W: www.huttcity.govt.nz



From:

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 4:31 pm

To:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Election Hoarding signs

Hi,

We were all told they had to be down by noon tomorrow.

To be sure, my team has been getting most down today.

Why are candidates now being told they have an extra 24 hrs until noon Saturday. This last minute change puts me at a disadvantage as now some other candidates will have their signs up right until close of voting.

Regards

On 6/10/2022, at 12:15 PM,

> wrote:

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Administrator

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: M: www.huttcity.govt.nz



From:

5 / (Z)(d)

Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 3:49 PM

To: Bruce Hodgins < bruce Hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] URGENT - Election signs

Hi Bruce,

I'm sorry Bruce, but this is an extremely poor process.

When we spoke on the phone yesterday you sounded surprised by the change, told me that you did not have any involvement in the sign management decisions and that this was managed in different area. You also said that the email was not good and you apologized for it. Our administrator was told the decision came from management, not the Electoral Officer. These were the reasons for my follow up questions in my text last night and email this morning asking about the approval process. Now you are saying you made the decision – this doesn't make sense to me.

If it is the same approach as last year, and you where okay with signs being taken down right up to close of polling, why state a different rule in the handbook? Why then advise a change to the rules with such short notice and after some candidates had already made arrangements with trucks and labour? If the weather was the issue as you mention, why was the decision to change the rules not made days before when the forecast came out, not after the cold morning's work was over and the weather eased up? Why extend the deadline beyond today as the weather has been excellent?

I was not aware that the Council doesn't adhere to District Plan rules about sizes. And even if that was pointed out previously, I can't see the relevance to this last minute decision to change the rules about taking signs down.

Yes we did start earlier than most due to be sure to get our signs down in accordance with your rules. I cannot understand why you don't think we have been disadvantaged by the slower candidates being given an extra 24 hours exposure beyond Friday midday, and spanning the final voting days, when some will be making their decisions who to vote for.

The whole team I've been working with felt very let down and that their hard work yesterday to comply with your process will cost them votes this election.

Regards,

From: Bruce Hodgins < bruce.hodgins@huttcity.govt.nz >

Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 1:54 pm

To: s 7(2)(a)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] URGENT - Election signs

Thanks s 7(2)(a)

The decision to allow candidates to have their hoardings up until 12 noon Saturday was one that I made yesterday morning in a discussion with a member of the Transport Team based on what has happened in the past.

At the 2019 elections this occurred with some candidates removing signage on Saturday morning. We were OK with that as long as they were down by the close of polling.

I have taken the same approach this year, particularly given the poor weather conditions yesterday.

The District Plan rules sets out the 6 week period for signage to be up as well as some other matters such as the size of signage. As you know we are not strictly adhering to the size requirements with the standard 2.4M x1.2M corflute signs exceeding DP requirements.

I understand that most candidates are already in the process of removing their signs with many currently down.

I don't agree that this matter has caused a significant disadvantage to candidates, noting that it was your decision to remove signs on Thursday morning, more than 24 hours before the deadline outlined in the candidate booklet.

There is no written record to make available other than the email you received as the matter was a conversation between myself and the staff member concerned.

Bruce

Bruce Hodgins

Strategic Advisor

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: 04 570 6839 M: W: www.huttcity.govt.nz



From:

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:41 pm

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Election Hoarding signs

You're welcome!

Please don't hesitate to call me if there are any issues.

Cheers

On Thu, 6 Oct 2022, 12:34 wrote:

Great, thanks!

Administrator

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: M: www.huttcity.govt.nz

From:

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:19 pm

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Election Hoarding signs

We will be complying with page 26 of the candidates handbook and will have them down by 12 noon tomorrow.

Thanks for your help

On Thu, 6 Oct 2022, 12:15 wrote:

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

Kind regards



Administrator

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: M: W: www.huttcity.govt.nz From: \$ 7(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 2:32 pm

To: ContactHCC < contact@huttcity.govt.nz >

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Election rules breaches complaint

I wish to lodge official complaints regarding breaches of the rules relating to election advertising hoardings being removed prior to 12noon October 7.

Campbell Barry has election hoardings still visible at

- 51 Wainuiomata Rd Wainuiomata
- 61 Wainuiomata Rd
- 92 Wainuiomata Rd
- 88 Wellington Rd

Josh Briggs has hoardings visible at 61 Wainuiomata Rd 92 Wainuiomata Rd

Brady Dyer has election hoardings visible at 2 Wellington Rd

Keri Brown has election hoardings visible at 61 Wainuiomata Rd

These were sighted by me at 2.30pm on Friday October 8, 2022.

Please confirm receipt of this complaint

Email thread 5

From:

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:56 pm

To: s 7(2)(a)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Election Hoarding signs

Thanks s 7(2)(a)

Mine are all down.

Appreciate your email.

Thanks

On Thu, 6 Oct 2022 at 12:32,

s 7(2)(a)

wrote:

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

Kind regards

s 7(2)(a)

Administrator

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: M:

(a) W

W: www.huttcity.govt.nz



Email thread 6

From: s 7(2)(

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:38 pm

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Election Hoarding signs

... thanks ... appreciate the reminder!

Best Regards,



From: s 7(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, 6 October 2022 12:31 pm

To: s /(2)(a)

Subject: Election Hoarding signs

Hello

This is a friendly reminder that all your election hoarding signs have to go down Friday 7th October 2022, if however you can't get these down by tomorrow you have until Saturday 8th October before 12 noon at the latest.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Administrator

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt 5040

P: M: www.huttcity.govt.nz



TEXTS

– SENT BY SAME LOCAL BODY ELECTION CANDIDATE TO BRUCE HODGINS, HUTT CITY COUNCIL, ON 7 OCTOBER 2022.

Text 1

Mate, I'm bloody angry about some of the underhand tactics going on, encouraging people to come and vote by some candidates even by video and offering free kai etc.

Then getting an email today that removal of signs has been extended to midday Saturday. Funnily enough we get this email as soon as our team of volunteers including myself finished removing all our hoardings this afternoon.

People warned me of this sort of behaviour and I thought nah, surely not.

Even if some of the team get in, I and others will be laying complaints either way.

It is very disheartening to see this sort of thing going on and I can see why certain Councillors get beaten down and resign.

Do you have any comments regarding any of the above?

Cheers,

Text 2

Hi Bruce, following on from previous text, I have been driving around and heaps of City Wide candidates hoardings are up everywhere, all except United Hutt candidates.

Also I never recieved an email advising of this very dubious extension ???

Regards, **7(2)(a)**

Text 3

So unfair advantage to myself Bigtime for the last 24 hour voting push

Text 4

Campbell corner of Rata and Wainuiomata Road 2pm

