

From: LGOIMA
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LGOIMA request - Policy on council workshops and briefings - Reference 2431 Tuesday, 15
Date: October 2024 9:41:46 am

Kia ora [REDACTED],

I refer to your official information request 11 October 2024.

The information you have requested is below:

- **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)**

Currently Council's workshops and briefings are not open to the public and the Council is not in the process of opening them up. No decisions are made at workshops or briefings. The Council does make workshop/briefing material available on its website, unless the material is deemed confidential, however, this is currently as resources allow and is done after the workshops have taken place.

We are currently working on a process to make workshop/briefing material available (unless it is deemed confidential) online prior to the workshop/briefing, to aid transparency for the public as to what is being discussed, this will include a brief workshop objective, and following the workshop/briefing, notes to list workshop elected member attendees and a brief outcome/next steps.

If you are unsatisfied with the Council's response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely
Legal Support Officer
