



## Te Tari Taiwhenua Internal Affairs

19 July 2022

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Tēnā koe Garth

### **Official Information Act 1982 request dated 6 December 2022 (ref OIA2223-0452)**

I wish to make a new decision on part of your request dated 6 December 2022 to Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). The relevant part of your request that I reviewed is:

*“A list of all persons and organisations who supported the extension of the Tauranga City Council Commissioners’ terms.”*

A new decision is necessary due to the Chief Ombudsman’s final opinion, which concluded that Te Tari Taiwhenua’s original decision on your request was unreasonable in the circumstances.

I wish to apologise for the manner in which Te Tari Taiwhenua handled your request. Before refusing the above part of your request, best practice would have involved reaching out to you to discuss the intended scope of your request and to provide reasonable assistance to you.

I advise that Te Tari Taiwhenua does not hold a pre-existing list of all persons and organisations who supported new terms for the Commissioners. Te Tari Taiwhenua does, however, hold some records of the persons and organisations expressing support for the Commissioners in the form of correspondence with the Minister of Local Government.

The organisations who expressed support for the Commissioners are Urban Task Force for Tauranga, Property Council of New Zealand, and a Ngā Pōtiki ā Tamapahore Trust.

Te Tari Taiwhenua holds records that 15 individuals wrote to the Minister of Local Government expressing support for the Commissioners. The names of these individuals are unable to be released at this time. The withholding of these names is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding the names of the individuals in question are outweighed by other public interest considerations which would make it desirable to make this information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

Please contact Rachel Chrystall on [Rachel.Chrystall@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Chrystall@dia.govt.nz) if you wish to discuss this matter further. Alternatively, Rachel Chrystall would be happy to assist you if you wish to submit a new request for information about the Commissioners of Tauranga.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to seek a review of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Cauchi', written in a cursive style.

Jeremy Cauchi

**Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring and Capability**