Our ref 600749 (Complaint ground: 600751) Contact Helen Copsey 21 June 2023

Ombudsman Fairness for all

Mr Garth Mathieson By email: <u>garth@gmlaw.nz</u>

Dear Mr Mathieson

Official information Act investigation Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) Request for information about support for the extension of the Tauranga City Council Commissioners' terms

I refer to Manager John Owen's letter of 17 March 2023, concerning your complaint about the decision of Department to partially refuse your request for information.

I have received a report from the Department on your complaint, and I have now had an opportunity to consider that material.

At this stage, I have formed a provisional opinion on the matter. I am providing the Department with an opportunity to comment before I decide whether to confirm my opinion as final. I have today written to the Department in that respect, and I will write to you again once I have received a response.

Yours sincerely

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Peter Boshier Chief Ombudsman