



Waitaki
District Council

TE KAUNIHERA
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20 Thames Street
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Date released: 23 July 2026

Subject: Correspondence Relating to (the) Mayor's Statements About LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency)

LGOIMA: OIA-1722

Original LGOIMA Request with official Council Responses provided in red:

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, I request the following information relating to statements made by the Mayor during the Council meeting livestreamed on 23 June 2026.

During the meeting, while discussing the Council's debt cap, the Mayor stated:

- *"We do have a very shaky discussion going on with the Local Government Funding Agency."*
- *"The reality is they do not believe that we can fund our ongoing activity by any stretch at 7%."*
- *"They also don't see that we are carrying out our obligations in debt repayment through doing that kind of short-term decision-making."*

These statements suggest that the LGFA has communicated concerns about the Council's financial management, debt-repayment obligations, and the affordability of a 7% rates increase.

I therefore request the following information:

1. All correspondence, emails, text messages, meeting notes, or records of conversation between:



- The Mayor;
- Any elected member;
- Any Council employee;
- Any consultant acting on behalf of the Council; and
- The Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA)

relating to:

- The Council's debt cap;
- The Council's financial sustainability;
- Rates-setting decisions;
- Debt-repayment obligations;
- Any concerns or assessments expressed by LGFA.

Waitaki District Council is withholding the information on the grounds that making available the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the Council (section 7(2)(b)(ii) of LGOIMA). The disclosure of such correspondence in relation to the Council would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the Council's ability to access financing (including from other lenders).

2. Any internal Council reports, briefings, or advice prepared for the Mayor or Councillors that reference:

- LGFA concerns about the Council's financial position;
- LGFA views on the affordability of a 7% rates increase;
- LGFA commentary on "short-term decision-making".

All Council reports, briefings, and advice prepared for the Mayor or Councillors regarding these matters are publicly available on our website. Please refer to the various Annual Plan Council meeting agendas and recordings. There are no further internal reports.

3. Confirmation of whether the Mayor's statements were:

- Based on formal LGFA communication;
- Based on informal discussions;



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- Based on personal interpretation or opinion.

The Mayor's statements were based on email and verbal communications with LGFA.