

2 November 2023

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-24052

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2023-254**

I refer to your request for information dated 4 October 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 4 October 2023. You have requested the following:

#### **Directed to Councillor Penny Gaylor**

*"Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, I request the following information :*

*On 27 August 2023 [REDACTED] emailed you regarding the public meeting at the Bus Stop Café, 15 Sims Road, Te Horo Beach on the same day.*

*In your reply you provided the following statement:*

*"Unfortunately I wasn't available to attend the meeting on Sunday morning."*

*Michael Moore, Deputy Chair of the Waikanae Community Board sent you an invitation to attend with what I would consider adequate notice.*

*Yet we did not receive an apology nor did you show the grace to attend to this important meeting. In your capacity of an elected official on the board of the Greater Wellington Regional Council representing the concerns of the Kapiti Coast Constituency, I would have expected it vital that you would have engaged with the community on this issue.*

*To release a statement posthumously some days later in a local newspaper that isn't even delivered to Te Horo or doesn't normally cover the issues that affect Te Horo residents, isn't good enough from the point of view of the people that made the effort to attend this meeting as well as many other residents in our community.*

*My question to you under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, is the following :*

*What was the reason that you weren't able to attend the public meeting at the Bus Stop Café, 15 Sims Road, Te Horo Beach?*

*What was the capacity of the failure to comply with the invitation to attend this meeting in your obligations as a Greater Wellington Regional Councillor?*

*Secondly, I hereby, also request a reply to another statement as provided by you in the email that you provided to [REDACTED] :*

*"But as I said above, (I) have this week asked Waka Kotahi to se(e) how quickly we can resolve their process and deliver the bus stop for the Te Horo community."*

*Has NZTA replied to your request by now? Considering that they have had well in excess of a month to reply.*

*And what has their reply been?*

*And what will you be doing if you haven't received a reply by now, considering it's well over a month.*

*Thirdly, I hereby, also request a reply to yet another statement as provided by you in the email that you provided to [REDACTED] :*

*"In the meantime, we have also asked Uzabus to revert to that route in anticipation of the bus stop being returned."*

*This has clearly not happened as the bus drivers are still travelling on the expressway with the odd exception proving that there's no logical reason that the buses can't use their designated route. Will you follow this up as well and make sure that Uzabus is actually complying with your directive? And why isn't Uzabus complying with GWRC's directive, as once again they have had over a month to comply with this directive?"*

**Greater Wellington's response follows:**

*What was the reason that you [Councillor Penny Gaylor] weren't able to attend the public meeting at the Bus Stop Café, 15 Sims Road, Te Horo Beach?*

Councillor Gaylor has provided us with the invite to this meeting (copy attached as **Attachment 1**) which was sent to a number of individuals. As Councillor Gaylor was only copied into this invite and there was no RSVP requirement on the copied notice, she did not attend.

*What was the capacity of the failure to comply with the invitation to attend this meeting in your obligations as a Greater Wellington Regional Councillor?*

When Councillors are invited to local community events, they are generally directly invited by the organiser and it is common practice that the organiser specifically checks the availability of the councillor for the date and time and provides an RSVP request. It is up to individual councillors to determine which events they are available to attend, noting the event was on a Sunday morning and the guest speaker promoted was a General Election candidate. As noted above, Councillor Gaylor was not directly invited to this event.

*Has NZTA replied to your request by now? Considering that they have had well in excess of a month to reply. And what has their reply been? And what will you be doing if you haven't received a reply by now, considering it's well over a month.*

The revocation process being undertaken by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) along the Old State Highway will take considerable time. Greater Wellington staff have been in regular correspondence with both Waka Kotahi and Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) to gain the approvals needed to install temporary stops along the Route 290 bus route.

We can confirm that these temporary bus stop locations have recently been approved and bus stop infrastructure will be installed in the coming weeks. The bus service from these locations will become operational from 12 November 2023.

*Will you follow this up as well and make sure that Uzabus is actually complying with your directive? And why isn't Uzabus complying with GWRC's directive, as once again they have had over a month to comply with this directive?"*

Greater Wellington staff made the decision not to request Uzabus to revert along the Old State Highway ahead of services resuming, as there was not a legal bus stop on that road. Now that we have gained the necessary approvals, Uzabus has been instructed to revert to the old route from 12 November when the interim stops become operational.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Samantha Gain**

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink