

21 October 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### Local Government Official Information Request

Thank you for your request for information from Council. All requests to the Council for information are required to be considered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). More information about how the Council handles LGOIMA requests can be found in the Council's [LGOIMA Request Policy](#), which is available on the Council's website.

Your request for information was received on 10 October 2024 and related to Council's Policy on Workshops and Briefings. Our response is below:

1. What is your council's current policy in relation to whether elected member workshops and briefings are open to the public?

**Response:**

Please see this link to Council's Standing Orders [Standing Orders: Rangitikei District Council](#), specifically pages 76 and 77.

2. 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?

**Response:**

Yes.

3. 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).

**Response:**

Workshops are open to the public, unless there is a specific provision under LGOIMA to exclude the public. They are not live streamed or recorded, anyone can attend the public sections of the Workshop. Agendas are published on our website (refer to this link -

[Meetings - Council Workshop - Page 1: Rangitikei District Council](#)), the agenda refers to matters that are open to the public and matters and reasons where the public is excluded.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/about/contact-us/official-information> with your personal information removed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Karen Cowper 06 327 0099.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Gordon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carol Gordon

**Deputy Chief Executive / Group Manager Strategy, Community & Democracy**