

27 February 2025

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

**Official information Request: Local Electoral Act 2001**

I am writing to you in response to the request received on 17 February 2025 for information under urgent delivery.

We have assessed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). I have received the following information to provide the following responses:

**(1) Your submission to the LGC to oppose our Appeal on Tuesday Morning 11 April together with all other communications to LGC concerning the Appeal [I was unable to read the SWDC Submission on UTube]**

As part of the Hearings Process, the council was allocated 30mins to explain the council's final proposal, the reason for deciding the representation arrangements, and answer questions from the Commissioners. A copy of the presentation has been provided to you previously.

**(2) The Council's Decision over representation and all reasons as understood by the SWDC (my previous request was not fully answered)**

Please see our website for details on all decisions made for the representation review - [Representation Review - SWDC](#).

Full details on all the decisions can be found in the council and committee reports, in our meetings agendas and minutes, which are on the website. However, key information for the initial proposal and final proposal is linked through here - [Representation Review - SWDC](#)

**(3) all enquiries of the different "communities" that make up the South Wairarapa**

Please refer to the Council report on [30 October 2024](#) and [Strategy Working Committee report 31 July 2024](#)

**(4) the public notice required by S19N Local Electoral Act 2002**

Please refer to [Representation Review - SWDC](#).

**(5) All documentary evidence that the SWDC had before 11 2 25 considered from the LGC (1) copies of past decisions and (2) policy guidance**

Please see attached emails.

Due to the volume of documents requested, we would be seeking a charge for printing. If you would like printed copies of this information, please contact Enquiries to arrange this.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. If this request is selected it will be published at <https://swdc.govt.nz/lgoima-proactive-release/>, with your personal information removed.

You have a right to request a review by the Ombudsman on this response. Further information about this process can be found on <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint> or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Gardner', with a small dot at the end.

Paul Gardner  
General Manager, Corporate Services

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing confirmation  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 December 2024 12:56:42 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Thank you [REDACTED], I did return your call today so feel free to call again if you need.

We will be in touch with those who have asked to speak and arrange a time. People who did not submit appeals and/or objections are not able to speak at the hearings.

Ali in CC will be able to provide you with more information about what is needed on the day but will be in touch about this in the New Year.

Have a great break!

Ngā mihi,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe | Local Government Commission  
Mobile: [REDACTED]

[lgc.govt.nz](http://lgc.govt.nz)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:00 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing confirmation

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for letting us know. I'm on leave from 19 December and returning to work on 21 January 25.

Can you please let me know some details on the process from here? – will you respond to those who have asked to speak and arrange a time or does that fall to us?

Also, we did have a few people against a rural ward in the original hearings .. is there a process now to inform the wider community to let them have a say over rural wards at all?

Many thanks  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2024 9:46 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Hearing confirmation

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Just letting you know that the Commission met yesterday and confirmed that we will be holding a hearing for South Wairarapa District Council. It will held virtually on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

We will be in touch in the new year to sort out further details. Can you please let me know when you will be returning to work next year?

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe | Local Government Commission**

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[lgc.govt.nz](http://lgc.govt.nz)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED] [II](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing information and requests  
**Date:** Thursday, 30 January 2025 6:02:19 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Brilliant, thank you.

If we could also be advised regarding the camera set up... basically whether each, or any of you, will be relying on the camera on your specific devices, or if there is one central camera in the room for instance...

Thanks again.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 2:12 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing information and requests

Ah yes – sorry .. we will be in the same room I believe ... but just double checking this with the Mayor. Janice and I will definitely be in the same room.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 2:01 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing information and requests

Hi [REDACTED]

That's excellent, thank you. Yes, have noted your request regarding the room booking for community members, I will let you know where we land.

Would you mind confirming please whether the three of you will be in the same room and therefore on one Zoom invite, or whether you will each be on separate devices?

Thanks for your time.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 1:54 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Hearing information and requests

Hi [REDACTED]

Just confirming the following SWDC people will be attending:

- Mayor Martin Connelly - [themayor@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:themayor@swdc.govt.nz)
- CEO Janice Smith – [janice.smith@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:janice.smith@swdc.govt.nz)
- Me – [REDACTED] (email above)

Janice will speak on behalf of council and be supported by myself and the mayor. We have booked a room for our community, should they need support with zoom but if you could please let us know if that is required (one way or the other), that would be great.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 4:37 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Hearing information and requests

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Happy New Year! I hope you had a great break. I understand you are back at work on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Jan, so I thought I'd flick this info through and will follow up when you are back.

As earlier advised by [REDACTED], a hearing of appeals and objections to Council's final representation proposal has been scheduled for 11 February, commencing at 9.30am. Following are details regarding the hearing itself, and we have also highlighted the information the Local Government Commission requires ahead of the hearing.

### **Tikanga**

We are mindful that different councils around the motu have different tikanga informed by the iwi and hapu in their area and wish to observe these where possible. Ahead of the hearing, we would be grateful to be informed of any particular tikanga requirements your council has when external parties such as the Commission conduct proceedings in your area.

There have also been instances where Councils have had mana whenua and/or iwi representatives attend the hearings. This is not an expectation, however if it is something that applies to you, please notify the Commission in advance of any attendance so that we

can acknowledge this appropriately.

### **Hearing**

Once any tikanga requirements have been observed, the Commission will open the hearing with a karakia and the Commission's chair will introduce the Commission and briefly outline the hearing process. The council is allocated 30 minutes to explain the council's final proposal, the reasons for deciding the representation arrangements, and answer questions from Commissioners. Council can use whatever form you believe suitable for conveying and explaining the final proposal, whether this be verbal alone or include a presentation. Further information on the hearing process can be found in our representation review guidelines (pages 83-84): [Representation-Review-Guidelines-2023-v2.pdf \(lgc.govt.nz\)](#)

[For action: In the event a presentation is utilised, please email the Commission a copy at least 2 business days prior to the hearing.](#)

The Commissioners will call upon any appellants, objectors or others that have accepted an invitation to appear before the Commission. The Commission will contact appellants and objectors to advise of the hearing and invite them to speak for an allotted 10 minutes each. The council has a right-of-reply at the conclusion of the hearing. The right-of-reply is scheduled for 30 minutes and is an opportunity to address anything raised by appellants or objectors. Commissioners will possibly indicate during the hearing any further details they would like clarified as part of the right-of-reply. The Council does not need to fill the entire allotted time.

### **Timing**

The hearing is expected to finish before 12pm. The time the hearing concludes however, will vary depending on how many appellants and/or objectors wish to appear. A hearing schedule will be provided to Council the day before the hearing.

### **Attendance**

The Mayor, Chief Executive and key officers will typically represent the council at a hearing. If another councillor or member of staff completed work on the representation proposal, they may wish to attend in support. Other councillors or officers can attend as observers. In the event that an appellant and/or objector does not have the capability to access the hearing online, we ask that Council accommodate where possible, an appellant or objector attending Council chambers to speak at their allotted time.

[For action: Please email us a list of those who will speak on Council's behalf, and note any officers who will attend in support. We do not need to be informed of observers.](#)

[For action: Please also provide email addresses for the purpose of sending the Zoom invitation.](#)

### **Technology**

The hearing is held via Zoom webinar and will be livestreamed. We will be in touch with you to schedule a Zoom test run and technology check, which will likely occur on the last business day prior to the hearing.

## Media

The Commission will advise media that the hearing is taking place.

[For action: Please ask your communications manager to send me a list of media contacts that the Commission can use to send a link for the livestream.](#)

Please let us know if you have any queries. We look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi nui

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**From:** ■

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2024 12:56 PM

**To:** ■

**Cc:** ■

**Subject:** RE: Hearing confirmation

Thank you ■ I did return your call today so feel free to call again if you need.

We will be in touch with those who have asked to speak and arrange a time. People who did not submit appeals and/or objections are not able to speak at the hearings.

■ in CC will be able to provide you with more information about what is needed on the day but will be in touch about this in the New Year.

Have a great break!

Ngā mihi,

■

■

Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe | Local Government Commission

Mobile: ■

[lgc.govt.nz](http://lgc.govt.nz)



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**From:** ■

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:00 AM

**To:** ■

**Subject:** RE: Hearing confirmation

Kia ora ■

Thanks for letting us know. I'm on leave from 19 December and returning to work on 21 January 25.

Can you please let me know some details on the process from here? – will you





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rep Review question re appeals and objections  
**Date:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 4:04:35 pm  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for the update. Best to send through in one hit at the end if that's ok with you.

In terms of the petition, it would be dealt with as one appeal/objection as it's one document and usually there is one organiser. Do you have any other questions around this?

Ngā mihi,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe | Local Government Commission**

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[lgc.govt.nz](http://lgc.govt.nz)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 2:26 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rep Review question re appeals and objections

Kia ora [REDACTED]

So far, we have had 1 appeal come through .. is it best for us to send them through as they arrive or all together in December at the end?

Also, I've been informed by elected members that a member of the public is currently starting a petition for rural wards. Any recommendations or suggestions on this?

Many thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



South Wairarapa District Council  
06 306 9611  
PO Box 6 Martinborough 5741

19 Kitchener Street Martinborough 5711

[www.swdc.govt.nz](http://www.swdc.govt.nz)

*Please note my hours of work are Mondays - Thursdays 9am-3pm*