

30 October 2023

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official information Request: Pop-in Sessions for Rating Review

I am writing to you in response to your request received 24 October 2023 for information relating to pop-in sessions for the Rating Review consultation:

What dates were the pop-in sessions in each town, Featherston, Greytown, and Martinborough for the public for the recent Rates Review Consultation?

If there were no public pop-in sessions for the recent Rates Review Consultation - please give an explanation why.

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

Individual councillors have made themselves available to the public for individual and group sessions. There were no specific planned public pop-in sessions delivered for the recent Rating Review Consultation. These sessions have been delivered in the past and generally we get between 1-5 people attend, often the same people come to multiple drop-in sessions. The resources required to plan and deliver these sessions is considerable and at the time, staff did not have the capacity to organise something that we anticipated would have low turnout. We did, however, trial a more innovative session, where we invited a small group of stakeholders to a Rating Review workshop.

We want to make changes to the ways we engage and consult with our community that will broaden the reach we have to people who do not usually have a say and utilise our limited resources more effectively. This is a work in progress and feedback is welcome as we shift our practice.

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 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

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Bradley', written in a cursive style.

Amanda Bradley
General Manager, Democracy and Engagement Team