

From: Allie Dunn
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to Information Request re Memorandum of Partnership
Date: Tuesday, 22 September 2026 9:16:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)

Kia ora

I am writing in response to your official information request dated 27 August 2026 regarding broader discussions and deliberations relating to the Government's Simplifying Local Government reforms undertaken by Tararua District Council. Our search identified 74 emails within the scope of your request. Due to the volume of information, we have made the documents available to you in a OneDrive folder, which will be shared separately.

One document contains information that has been withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to protect the privacy of natural persons. The withheld information relates to personal matters and is not relevant to the discussions concerning the Memorandum of Understanding. Copies of the reports considered by Council, together with recordings of the relevant meetings, are publicly available on Council's website. The relevant meetings were held on 10 June 2026 and 29 July 2026 and can be accessed at:

<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/agendas-and-minutes>

During May 2026 the Tararua District Council also sought feedback from the community on the Simplifying Local Government proposals. Information relating to that engagement, including the outcome of those discussions, is available at:

<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultations/previous-consultation/reform-of-local-government>

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer
Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

☎ Phone: +64 6 3744080 | Mobile: +64 27 3331626

✉ Allie.Dunn@Tararua.govt.nz

📍 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke 4930, PO Box 115

🌐 www.tararua.govt.nz

 www.facebook.com/tararuadc

 www.instagram.com/tararuadistrictcouncil

 www.linkedin.com/company/tararua-district-council

THE NEXT 10 YEARS: LONG TERM PLAN 2027 - 2037

**Design
YOUR
ideal
services**

***Libraries, footpaths and the
local economy - three of the
things you told us you want to
talk about.***



Share your views before 27 September 2026.

This email and any attachments are intended for the above named recipient only and may be confidential.

If you have received it in error, please take no action based on it, copy it, or show it to anyone.

Please return to the sender and delete your copy. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 27 August 2026 9:36 am

To: Allie Dunn <Allie.Dunn@Tararuadc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Refinement of Information Request re Memorandum of Partnership

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

Mōrena,

Thanks for your reply. For clarity, I am not seeking any information pertaining to the broader discussions and deliberations pertaining to the Government's Simplifying Local Government reforms undertaken by Council.

This request is only pertaining to specific communications/drafts/signing of one single document.

Your examples below while they have the appearance of narrowing the scope are in essence confirming what I have asked for in my request. eg: final Memorandum of Understanding, key drafts, reports to elected members, or the final joint letter. In the context of a singular MOU I see little difference in "key drafts" and my request for all drafts?

Pertaining to "Communications within a specific date range", the draft MOU and letter to the Government considered by Councillors appears to have been drafted on or about 16 July, 2026 and subsequently signed just three weeks later on the 7th August, 2026. In the interests of expediting this request, I am willing to narrow my request to cover two months prior to the 10th August, 2026.

Ngā mihi

On Tue, Aug 25, 2026 at 2:29 PM Allie Dunn <Allie.Dunn@tararua.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora

Thank you for your request received on 24 August 2026 under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

We are currently assessing your request. At this stage, we note that the request is very broad in scope and seeks a substantial volume of information, including all communications, drafts, versions, records and associated material relating to the Memorandum of Understanding and related correspondence involving multiple organisations, elected members, staff and communication channels.

In its current form, responding to the request is likely to require a significant amount of staff time and resources to identify, retrieve, review and assess potentially relevant information from a wide range of sources, including emails, electronic messaging platforms, meeting records and document management systems.

Under section 17B of LGOIMA, we are required to consider whether consulting with a requester would assist in making a request in a form that would remove the reason for refusal. We would therefore appreciate the opportunity to discuss whether the scope of your request could be refined.

By way of example, you may wish to consider whether you are primarily interested in:

- Specific categories of documents, such as the final Memorandum of Understanding, key drafts, reports to elected members, or the final joint letter; and/or
- Communications within a particular date range; and/or
- Communications involving particular individuals or organisations; and/or
- Particular aspects of the development, authorisation or approval of the

Memorandum of Understanding.

These examples are intended only to assist and are not intended to limit how you may wish to refine the request.

If you are willing to refine or clarify the scope of your request, please let us know. We would be happy to discuss options with you to identify the information that is of greatest interest.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer

Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

Phone: +64 6 3744080 | Mobile: +64 27 3331626

Allie.Dunn@TararuaDC.govt.nz

26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke 4930, PO Box 115

www.tararuaDC.govt.nz

www.facebook.com/tararuaDC

From: Allie Dunn

Sent: Monday, 24 August 2026 3:42 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: CM: Acknowledgement of Information Request re Memorandum of Partnership

Kia ora

This email is to acknowledge receipt of your request for information, regarding Information Request re Memorandum of Partnership.

We will endeavour to respond to your request as soon as possible and in any event no later than 21 September 2026, being 20 working days after the day your request was received. If we are unable to respond to your request by then, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.

As part of our commitment to openness and accountability, we are now proactively publishing copies of requests for information and the responses provided to these requests, on our website. In doing so, we will ensure we comply with the provisions of the Privacy Act 2020 and redact any personal / identifying information from any response published.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Ngā mihi



Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer

Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

Phone: +64 6 3744080 | Mobile: +64 27 3331626

Allie.Dunn@Tararuadc.govt.nz

26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke 4930, PO Box 115

www.tararuadc.govt.nz

www.facebook.com/tararuadc

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 24 August 2026 12:26 pm

Subject: LGOIMA request

EXTERNAL EMAIL ALERT: Caution advised. This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender's identity and use caution with attachments and links.

Kia ora,

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), I request the following information relating to the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between Ruapehu District Council, Whanganui District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Manawātū District Council and Tararua District Council concerning the regional response to the Government's Simplifying Local Government process.

For the purposes of this request, "MOU" includes the Memorandum of Understanding itself, its development, drafting, negotiation, approval, adoption, authorisation, execution/signing and subsequent circulation of a MOU as referred to in the media:

"Local government reform: Five Horizons councils agree to work together on merger proposal:

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/whanganui-chronicle/news/local-government-reform-five-horizons-councils-agree-to-work-together-on-merger-proposal/ZIAJ4X3JXJCLJOGTV3Z5AEC5L4/>

I request:

All communications relating to this MOU, both internal and external, including but not limited to emails, email attachments, letters, memoranda, Microsoft Teams or other instant messages, text/SMS messages, messages sent or received using other messaging applications where they relate to council business, meeting notes, file notes, briefing notes and records of telephone or verbal discussions including communications between any elected member/s, Mayor, Chief Executive, council officer/s or employee/s and:

- any of the other four participating councils;
- Horizons Regional Council;
- the Department of Internal Affairs;
- the Ministry of Local Government or other relevant central government agency; and
- any consultant, facilitator, adviser or other third party involved in developing the MOU or associated regional work programme pertaining to the Government's Simplifying Local Government reforms .

1. Every draft and version of all MOU iterations, including initial drafts, amended drafts, tracked-change versions, versions circulated for comment, the final version, document version histories and metadata where held and any correspondence accompanying the circulation of each draft or version including all records concerning who initiated or proposed the MOU and any records relating to its original purpose, proposed parties, scope or terms.

For clarity this request is to include all records relating to any amendments proposed or made to all iterations of the MOU, including who proposed each substantive amendment and any discussion concerning whether an amendment should be accepted, rejected or modified.

2. All communications pertaining to any version or amended version of the joint letter and/or MOU prepared for inclusion in Council agendas, reports or other material supplied to elected members, including any instructions, discussions or decisions to include, exclude, amend or remove any part of those documents ahead of inclusion in Council agendas, reports or other material supplied to elected members.

3. All records relating to the approval, adoption or authorisation of the MOU by this Council, including any Council or committee resolution, delegated authority relied upon, any Chief Executive delegation, legal advice, governance advice, staff advice, advice concerning the Mayor's authority to execute the MOU on behalf of the Council and any discussion about whether approval by the full Council was required before the MOU was finally signed including the MOU iteration/s each of these record/s pertain to.

6. All records/communications relating to the preparation, drafting and amendment

of the final joint letter as sent to Hon Simon Watts concerning the Manawatū-Whanganui regional response to the Simplifying Local Government process, including every draft or version of that letter, tracked-change versions, comments and proposed amendments, correspondence accompanying drafts, document version history and metadata where held, and records identifying who drafted, amended or approved each version.

Ngā mihi

