

29 February 2024

Erin Gourley
erin.gourley@stuff.co.nz

Kia ora Erin

Official Information request – National Music Centre

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 7 November 2023. You requested the following information:

- *...from the start of 2023, all correspondence, briefings and meeting notes between the council and stakeholders in the National Music Centre (including fundraising chairperson Kerry Prendergast, the NZSO and/or Victoria University) regarding the [proposal National Music Centre](#), the Town Hall, the MOB/CAB buildings and the Michael Fowler centre.*
- *I would also like to request a copy of any contract or funding agreement about the National Music Centre which the council is involved in. 2017?*

The National Music Centre is a collaboration between Wellington City Council, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) and Victoria University of Wellington's School of Music. The intention of the collaboration is to establish dedicated and shared facilities to enable the synergy between the parties to deliver activities that would nurture the next generation of musicians and to make Wellington a national centre of excellence in music. It was initially proposed that, under the agreement, NZSO and the School of Music would be accommodated in the Wellington Town Hall, the Michael Fowler Centre and the Municipal Office Building (MOB) in the Civic Square however since then, due to updated seismic assessments on MOB and the Michael Fowler Centre, the proposal now focuses on the Wellington Town Hall and Te Matapihi Central Library.

Wellington City Council has **granted in part** your request for information. Below are the documents that fall in scope of your request and my decision to release the document.

	Document name/description	Decision
1	Emails	Released with redactions
2	Agendas and Minutes	Released with redactions
3	Terms of Reference	Released in full
4	Collaboration and Redevelopment Agreement	Released in full

Information has been withheld under the Act, for items 1 and 2 above. These redactions have been made on the following grounds:

- Section 7(2)(a) – To protect the privacy of individuals
- Section 7(2)(b)(ii) – To protect information that would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information
- Section 7(2)(f)(i) – To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority in the course of their duty
- Section 7(2)(g) – To protect legal privileged documents (these have been withheld in full)
- Section 7(2)(i) – To enable the Council to undertake, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

In addition, you will notice that material that is a duplicate or is not relevant to your request has been redacted as being 'Out of Scope'.

Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Susan Sales
Official Information