

5 July 2024

File Ref: IRC-6230

James
fyi-request-26229-a1be865b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe James

Thank you for your email of 26 March 2024 to Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information:

- *... all correspondence, if any, relating to requests or inquiries about broadcasting the Call to Prayer from locations within the Wellington region. This should include but not be limited to email, texts and meetings between Wellington City Council staff, Councillors, the Mayor and her staff etc.*

On 25 April 2024, you refined the scope of your request to cover only *communications with Councillors, the mayor and her staff*.

The information you requested is attached. Please note that some of the content contains offensive material.

We advise that some material has been withheld from this information under the following sections of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act:

- Section 7(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- Section 7(2)(d), to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public
- Section 7(2)(f)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment

You have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(1) of the LGOIMA, to request an investigation and review of the Council's decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Susan Sales
Senior Advisor Official Information
Official Information team

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Info at WCC <info@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Wellington Council looking into whether mosques should be allowed to broadcast call to prayers

To whom it may concern

Regarding the WCC's consideration of whether Mosques should be allowed to broadcast a call to prayer, i would like to make a submission.

Below i have including two links, one to a proponent and one in opposition to allow the **adhan** in US Cities etc. Personally i disagree with this proposal, and the following is my rational for that position, and it is not because i object to Muslims, I have met many Muslims over the years, and all were lovely people. My objection is fairly simple,

- New Zealand is not Iran. Syria, Somalia, Turkiye etc , we are not a Muslim country, we were not founded on Islam
- Islam does not integrate well into Western society, and their stated goal, take over democracy and replace it with Sharia (proof below).
- Many practicing Muslim's, mainly males, have protested, some violently and aggressively against Israeli citizens and anyone that supports Israel in its war on Terrorism / Hamas, across Western society (Aussie, UK, US etc) and recently brought the UK parliament to a stand still because of their pro Hamas protests.
- Many of these people have no respect for the societies they enter and thus, have no respect for the Parliamentary and Judicial systems.
- People do not want to hear this call especially if they are none Muslim - I personally would find it offensive as i am sure many will.
- Noise pollution hearing such a broad cast early in the morning to late at night, is not only an abuse of privacy which the law is suppose to uphold, it is an attack on democracy.

There is a hidden agenda within Islam, and Islam is a political movement, that many Westerners are oblivious to, The goal of Islam or Islamists is to convert All people to Islam and the ultimate goal, replace democracy with Sharia Law (practiced in Saudi Arabia, Somalia etc Isil, Al Qaeda, El Nusra etc).

The Koran compels Muslims to participate in jihad until Islam the only religion in the world. Non Muslims have 4 fates in areas under Islamic law- convert to islam, be killed, be enslaved or pay a tax to Muslims.

Do you think Islam in NZ is any different to what is being forced on the populations of the EU and other Western Countries? It starts out subdued and then once they have enough supporters, the call to replace democratic processes start as can be clearly seen across the EU and US. Islam in NZ may seem benign but once their population / numbers are influential the push begins.

Related

[Is it true that Muslims go to other countries and try to impose their ways or is this just something that people who hate Muslims say?](#)

Is it true, see for your self.

Shariah for Britain



Shariah for France



Shariah for Netherlands



Shariah for london



A country after accepting muslim refugees regrets their decision.

Protester against Islam in USA.



protester against islam in Ireland.



Protester against islam in USA.



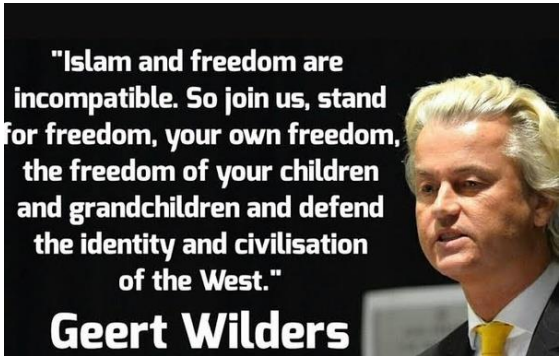
protester against Islam in Germany .



Protesters against Islam in London.



Netherlands on islam.



Italy on Islam.



USA on islam



Poland on islam



I thought of writing the answer and I reread the question and realized, if I wrote anything, then my answer will be another

is this just something that people who hate Muslims say?

“ You just say this and that but muslims are not like that, you just hate muslim and they dont want to enforce their belief on other and islam is a peaceful religion”.

Pretty sure this is not peaceful





I just gave you a clear visual of what their agenda are. I cant lie about that.

(They are not real muslim) (This is fake)

So yes it is true, muslims are going to non Islamic countries to enforce their sharia laws. **(I dont see any reason why it is not when muslims themselves are clear about their agenda to the world)**

Look at Poland, zero terrorist attacks, no rape by immigrants.

Wondering why there is no Islamophobia in Poland.

Because they dont accept muslims immigrants.



This map will give you an idea of why Poland are right about not accepting muslim immigrants.

Poland has a very strict immigration policy.
Here's a map of terror attacks in Europe.
Draw your own conclusions..



I'M MUSLIM

I KILLED Yezidis IN IRAQ.

I KILLED ZOROASTRIANS IN IRAN.

I KILLED BUDDHIST IN BURMA

I KILLED CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA.

I KILLED JEWS IN ISRAEL.

I KILLED HINDUS, SIKHS IN PAKISTAN.

I KILLED KASHMIRI PANDITS IN KASHMIR.

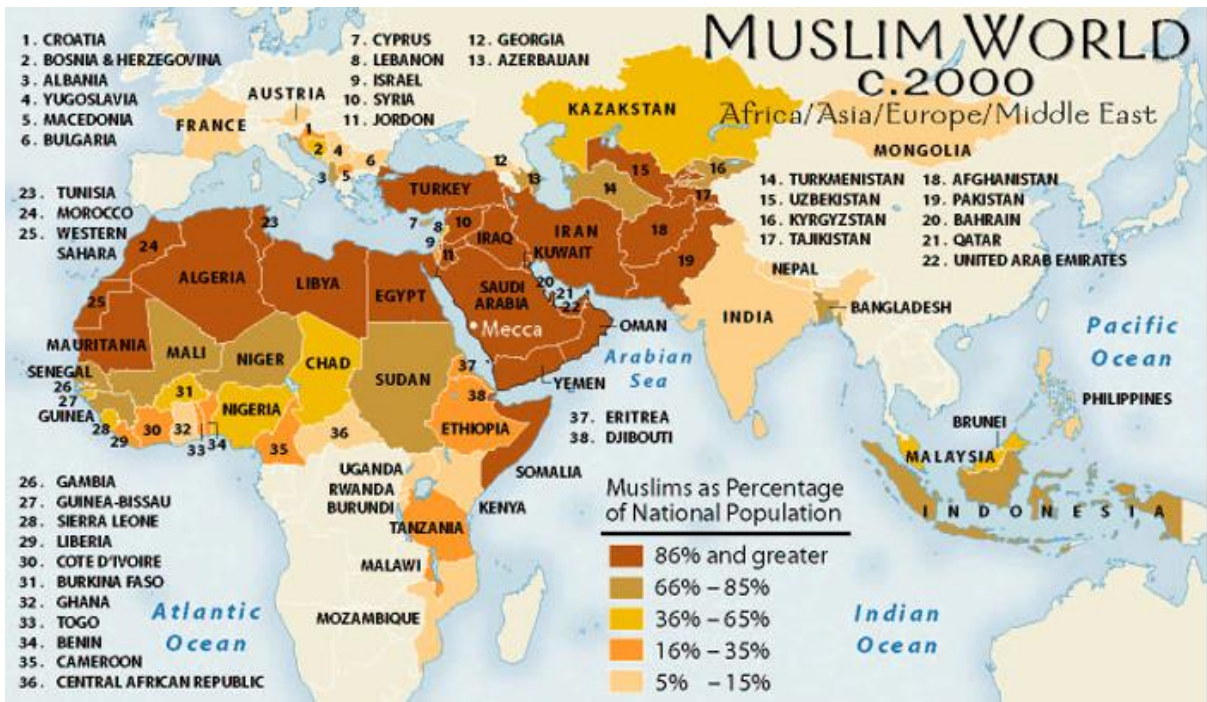
I KILLED BUDDHIST IN AFGHANISTAN.



BUT

STILL I PLAY

VICTIM CARD!



<https://www.wpr.org/politics/somali-muslim-call-prayer-strong-opposition-barron>

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2023/08/should-the-muslim-call-to-prayer-be-broadcast-in-american-cities>

Wellington City Council is looking into if mosques should be allowed to broadcast call to prayers, even for special occasions.

Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman raised the conversation, asking about how calls to prayer might be made - even for significant occasions like the March 15 terrorist attack anniversary.

It's currently not allowed and there is no plan for Wellington to allow regular broadcast of the call to prayer, which is observed five times a day.

However, an amendment made at [a council meeting on March 14](#) is asking council officers to investigate the rules on noise restrictions and come back with advice.

Councillors voted 10 to seven in favour of looking into it.

Mayor Tory Whanau, who voted in favour, told Newshub councils were responsible for regulating noise under District Plans.

"During last week's council meeting, where multiple amendments were passed to enable more housing in Wellington City, officers were asked to investigate religious observances as part of our District Plan Noise chapter," she said.

"Many religious observances cause public noise. This amendment is a normal and sensible thing to look at for a modern and diverse city that prides itself on being welcoming.

"I am so proud to be the Mayor of a city that not only welcomes but celebrates diversity and inclusion for all members of our community."

Sincerely

s7(2)(a)

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 25 March 2024 9:34 am
To: Mayor Tory Whanau; DL: Councillors
Subject: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Hello again,

I am writing to follow up on my email of 20 March asking two questions of the Mayor and councillors who voted in favour of the proposal to explore having the Muslim call to prayer broadcast in public.

I have received replies from two councillors, one of whom answered my questions. (Thank you, Councillor Matthews.)

I would be grateful to receive your reply when you have a moment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 10:30 am
To: Councillor Rebecca Matthews
Cc: DL: Councillors; Mayor Tory Whanau
Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Good morning Rebecca,

Thank you for your reply.

I have just a couple of points to finish off with for the time being.

I wonder if you would mind referring to it as the Muslim call to prayer, as it appears that is what you are referring to. To not do so, I suggest, would leave you open to the accusation of practising a deception on the public.

And regarding church bells - something we rarely hear these days - I find it astonishing that a city councillor would consider them public noise. One wonders what the founding fathers (and mothers) of the city would make of such a statement.

Thank you again for your time in replying to my questions.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

On Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 02:17:06 pm NZDT, Councillor Rebecca Matthews <rebecca.matthews@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

Regards the wording of my amendment, any changes to terminology would be part of the policy work to come. When I talked about public noise I was referring to church bells.

Ngā mihi
Rebecca

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:12:32 PM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <liz.kelly@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.
Hello again Rebecca,

Thank you for your reply.

I wonder if you could clarify a couple of points for me please.

When you refer to the call to prayer, am I right in thinking you mean the **Muslim** call to prayer? Or are you suggesting that there are other groups wishing to have a broadcast public call to prayer? If it is limited to this one group, for reasons of clarity and accuracy, are you able to refer to it as the Muslim call to prayer?

You mention other religious observances causing **public noise** at times. I can think of perhaps two - church bells at, say, a wedding or on a Sunday morning, and a group of Hare Krishna devotees chanting in the street. Do you regard these as public noise? Are there any other examples of what you mean?

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

On Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 11:01:00 am NZDT, Councillor Rebecca Matthews <rebecca.matthews@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

I moved this amendment due to concerns raised that the call to prayer could never be broadcast, even for the most significant occasions.

The amendment was simply for staff to do more work on this as part of the noise work in the District Plan, so the policy work and consultation is all to come.

Other religious observances cause public noise at times, which is normal for a city. I see this amendment as a normal and sensible thing to look at for a modern diverse city.

Ngā mihi
Rebecca

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: s7(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:28:02 AM

To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Good morning,

I am writing to you in response to the news that the Council is looking in to some of the practicalities of having the Muslim Call to Prayer in public.

If this is the case, it strikes me as a remarkable initiative by the Council.

I would like to ask the Mayor and each of the councillors who voted in favour of this initiative (as I understand it, Councillors Abdulrahman, Foon, Pouiwi Hohaia, Matthews, McNulty, O'Neill, Pannett, Rogers and Wi Neera) a couple of questions please.

1 Why did you vote for this initiative? and

2 What do you see as the desired outcome of it?

I would be grateful if each of you could give me your own personal reply please.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

s7(2)(a)

From: Councillor Nikau Wi Neera
Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 1:54 pm
To: Councillor Diane Calvert; Councillor Rebecca Matthews; s7(2)(a) Mayor Tory Whanau; DL: Councillors
Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.
Attachments: Consolidated list of District Plan Amendments 13.03.24.docx

Diane,

Out of scope



Out of scope

s7(2)(a) I won't speak to the Call to Prayer item, as I feel it more appropriate for the mover of the motion and Cr. Abdurahman, to whose community this matter is relevant, to present their case if they wish. I will simply state that I support them both wholeheartedly in their advocacy on this issue, and affirm that both amendments relating to noise were appropriate and raised according to proper process.

Cheers,
N

Nīkau Wi Neera

[Ngāti Toa](#), [Kāi Tahu](#), [Ngāpuhi](#), [Ngāti Pāhauwera](#)
Wellington City Councillor | Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward
Chair, *Pitau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee*
E nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz | W wellington.govt.nz |

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**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 March 2024 12:10

To: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>; s7(2)(a) Mayor
Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

That's interesting. We were told the day before the debate that

“Amendments to be moved by the Mayor in the substantive

Matter: Noise limits and prayer calls

Instruct officers to report back to Council on how the district plan Noise chapter should enable broadcasted calls to prayer in the City.”

There was no rationale provided as per the majority of other amendments put forward, noting that the paper was principally about zoning for housing (not noise). At that point, Cllr Matthews amendments focused just on zoning as per the Independent Commission’s recommendations (which did not include anything about call to prayers as this had not been raised previously by submitters or by Council previously).

I asked the Mayor for an explanation last Friday and am still awaiting a response.

“A number of representatives have asked me how the Council came to consider such a proposal for a “broadcasted call to prayers” as they were not aware of any request from the various religious and ethnic communities within Wellington. They are also concerned that such a proposal (even for officers to investigate) was not informally discussed with them.

Would you please advise where such a request came from and the amount of community support for it so I can report back.”

Regards

Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

P [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) | E diane.calvert@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz | F dianecalvertnz | T dianecalvertnz | W dianecalvert.nz

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If received in error, you are asked to destroy this email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated.

From: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:01 AM

To: [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Kia ora [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)

I moved this amendment due to concerns raised that the call to prayer could never be broadcast, even for the most significant occasions.

The amendment was simply for staff to do more work on this as part of the noise work in the District Plan, so the policy work and consultation is all to come.

Other religious observances cause public noise at times, which is normal for a city. I see this amendment as a normal and sensible thing to look at for a modern diverse city.

Ngā mihi

Rebecca

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From: [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:28:02 AM

To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Good morning,

I am writing to you in response to the news that the Council is looking in to some of the practicalities of having the Muslim Call to Prayer in public.

If this is the case, it strikes me as a remarkable initiative by the Council.

I would like to ask the Mayor and each of the councillors who voted in favour of this initiative (as I understand it, Councillors Abdulrahman, Foon, Pouwi Hohaia, Matthews, McNulty, O'Neill, Pannett, Rogers and Wi Neera) a couple of questions please.

1 Why did you vote for this initiative? and

2 What do you see as the desired outcome of it?

I would be grateful if each of you could give me your own personal reply please.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)

From: Councillor Ben McNulty <Ben.McNulty@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 3:30 PM

To: s7(2)(a)

Subject: Re: Call to prayer initiative

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

Noise is an issue that is governed within our District Plan be that church bells, live music or a call to prayer.

The Muslim community in this city want to investigate whether on special days such as commemoration of the March 15 terrorist attacks, could they broadcast a call to prayer from the Kilbirnie Mosque (similar as was done across national radio in the immediate aftermath).

There is no intention for 5 broadcasts a day and it's been a real shame that the media have reported it in such a way.

As a multicultural city I'm more than happy for council to investigate how this exception for noise could be allowed for in our District Plan and have voted to support that accordingly.

Ngā mihi,

Ben McNulty

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From: Councillor Geordie Rogers
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2024 12:14 pm
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Call to prayer initiative

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

The ask was simply for officers to help us understand why specific faith groups were not able to practice elements of their faith under our current District Planning rules. It also asks for what changes could be investigated or made in the future to ensure everyone is able to freely practice their religion.

I want people in our communities to be able to express themselves freely, whether they are religious or not, and regardless of the religion they practice.

Ngā mihi nui,
Geordie

From: s7(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 12:02:05 PM

To: Councillor Geordie Rogers <geordie.rogers@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Call to prayer initiative

Councillor Geordie Rogers

I wanted to list things to consider in case they're not covered by council officers.

1. The by-law change, does it specify only Islamic events, or is it for any religious event. The request from Tory Whanau is narrow and not representative of the wider community in relation to religious events.
2. Does council then need to keep a list of valid religions. Who decides if an event is religious.
3. What about non-religious beliefs and their followers. Secular beliefs are just as valid and as important as non-religious to those groups in the community.
4. If Council is going to allow this change, in the end you have to allow any event whether belief-based or religious or not.
5. How do you then adequately define the event.
6. The Islamic call to prayer includes the statement "There is no God except Allah". Is this offensive to others from the arabic community, to other religions. There are some horrific statements in the quaran in relation to women and homosexuals and even you who are non-islamic. Would these groups in the community find the broadcast offensive.
7. If other religions wish to broadcast on loud speakers their beliefs how do you ensure that they are not offensive to others in the community. For example one of the many non-islamic religions decides to broadcast speech that is somehow offensive to islamists. Where does it stop.
8. The issue with the Islamic requirement in relation to noise is that it is speech, not music nor some other sound or noise. If a right-wing belief group wishes to broadcast at an event that was anti-homosexual (I'm gay the way), would Council allow this?
9. Mosques in Wellington are in lower socio-economic areas such as the middle of Newtown and a similar area Kilbirnie. Is it a case of "Phew, I'm OK as I don't live in that area" but once again its the lower socio-economic that have to suffer, in this case due to the Mayor's virtue signalling and Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman's somewhat arrogant and selfish request.
10. Have council officers consulted with Iwi.
11. Others bring up religious bells being rung. This is not speech. Bells to most people are not an unpleasant noise. Religious bell ringing has been part of NZ including tangata whenua culture for nearly 200 years, and then for the immigrants that brought it to NZ for more than 1000 years.
12. I had a look at what others were saying on social media which is not necessarily full of the most sane. But one sane statement stuck in my mind "This is too much".

s7(2)(a)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2024 10:30 am
To: Councillor Rebecca Matthews
Cc: DL: Councillors; Mayor Tory Whanau
Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Good morning Rebecca,

Thank you for your reply.

I have just a couple of points to finish off with for the time being.

I wonder if you would mind referring to it as the Muslim call to prayer, as it appears that is what you are referring to. To not do so, I suggest, would leave you open to the accusation of practising a deception on the public.

And regarding church bells - something we rarely hear these days - I find it astonishing that a city councillor would consider them public noise. One wonders what the founding fathers (and mothers) of the city would make of such a statement.

Thank you again for your time in replying to my questions.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

On Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 02:17:06 pm NZDT, Councillor Rebecca Matthews <rebecca.matthews@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

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Regards the wording of my amendment, any changes to terminology would be part of the policy work to come. When I talked about public noise I was referring to church bells.

Ngā mihi
Rebecca

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Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:12:32 PM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <liz.kelly@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Hello again Rebecca,

Thank you for your reply.

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Regards,

s7(2)(a)

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Ngā mihi
Rebecca

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From: s7(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:28:02 AM

To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

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I would like to ask the Mayor and each of the councillors who voted in favour of this initiative (as I understand it, Councillors Abdulrahman, Foon, Pouiwi Hohaia, Matthews, McNulty, O'Neill, Pannett, Rogers and Wi Neera) a couple of questions please.

- 1 Why did you vote for this initiative? and
- 2 What do you see as the desired outcome of it?

I would be grateful if each of you could give me your own personal reply please.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

s7(2)(a)

From: Councillor Geordie Rogers
Sent: Monday, 25 March 2024 9:49 am
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

The Council often asks officers to do investigatory work on how we can better support members of the community. I wanted to receive more advice about how we can better support members of our community, hence I voted for it.

Thanks,
Geordie

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Hello again,

I am writing to follow up on my email of 20 March asking two questions of the Mayor and councillors who voted in favour of the proposal to explore having the Muslim call to prayer broadcast in public.

I have received replies from two councillors, one of whom answered my questions. (Thank you, Councillor Matthews.)

I would be grateful to receive your reply when you have a moment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

Out of scope

From: 7(2)(a) [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:16 PM

To: Councillor John Apanowicz <John.Apanowicz@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject:

How the phuck do you accidentally vote for 7(2)(d) [REDACTED] have a call for prayer?? In a country that isn't even theirs.

You're the dumbest flucking quunt ever and not fit for purpose.

Flucking resign !!!

From: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: s7(2)(a) @nzme.co.nz>
Cc: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Kia ora

Copying you into Cr Matthews and Abdurahman, and Mayor Whanau's team to respond as elected members proposing an amendment to the DP.

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

P s7(2)(a)
E victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: s7(2)(a) @nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Media <media@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Question about call to prayer amendment

Hi there

I'm trying to understand more about an amendment to the District Plan that was passed on Thursday.

I understand it was in the name of Rebecca Matthews, but I've not had any luck speaking with her so am hoping you can help.

I'd like to know

- What exactly is the council being asked to investigate and why?

- Has any Wellington mosque asked to be allowed to broadcast the call to prayer or is this a pre-emptive change?
- What's the next step once the council reports back?

If you could please give me a quick answer by 1.30 pm that'd be great. Feel free to ring if you need to clarify anything.

We would like to interview Rebecca or Tory or someone who can explain this to our listeners on the programme this afternoon if possible.

Thanks

s7(2)(a)

s7(2)(a)

Executive Producer s7(2)(a) Drive |
Newstalk ZB

M: s7(2)(a)

E: s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz

Out of scope

From: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:18:48 AM
To: Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>; Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: call to prayer **s7(2)(a)** - can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

Kia ora team,

Just want to confirm, are you happy with us to respond using the amendments Moana provided below?

“Councils are responsible for regulating noise under District Plans. During last week’s Council meeting, where multiple amendments were passed to enable more housing in Wellington City, officers were asked to look into religious observances as part of our District Plan Noise chapter.

Calls to prayer have not been approved in the Plan and if they were this would not be funded by the Council just as church bells are not funded by Council.”

We will respond this thread if we get any questions, thanks for your help! 😊

Ngā mihi,

Mollie Coulton She/Her

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement |
Wellington City Council

E mollie.coulton@wcc.govt.nz | s7(2)(a) | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:50 AM

To: Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: call to prayer, s7(2)(a) - can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

It could be possible, or perhaps they may fall under temporary activity noise limits, or may be otherwise permitted. We don't know yet. Calls to prayer weren't considered in our review of the Noise provisions and no-one submitted on this topic. This is why we couldn't address the councillor's request through the IHP recs or the Council amendments, but will have to be a new assessment and plan change.

At this point I'm hoping any change will be simple enough that we can include it as part of the Plan Change 1 (Omnibus) indicatively scheduled to be notified for submissions in early-mid 2025.

Andrew Wharton ([he/him](#))

Team Leader District Plan | Strategic Planning | Wellington City Council

s7(2)(a)

From: Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:17 AM
To: Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: call to prayer, s7(2)(a) etc - can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

Thanks Andrew. So when you say it might be covered by existing rules does that mean they could just do them if they comply with noise limits?

From: Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: call to prayer, s7(2)(a) can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

I agree with Moana's amendment. The first statement draft is beyond what the Council actually resolved, because "broadcasted calls to prayer" are religion-neutral – we can consider mosque calls, church bells, any other religious observances.

We don't know yet for sure whether a DP change is needed until we report back. Probably yes, but consultation may find that it's covered in existing Plan rules.

The Council meeting debate was about regular calls to prayer, but Council officers will consider how it applies to special religious events as well.

For reference the resolution was:

"Instruct officers to report back to Council on how the district plan Noise chapter should enable broadcasted calls to prayer in the City."

Regards,

Andrew Wharton ([he/him](#))

Team Leader District Plan | Strategic Planning | Wellington City Council

s7(2)(a)

From: Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>; Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: call to prayer, s7(2)(a) etc - can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

Reworded a bit:

Councils are responsible for regulating noise under District Plans. During last week's Council meeting, where multiple amendments were passed to enable more housing in Wellington City, officers were asked to look into religious observances as part of our District Plan Noise chapter.

Calls to prayer have not been approved in the Plan and if they were this would not be funded by the Council just as church bells are not funded by Council.

Sean/Adam – I assume it would require a DP change to allow calls to prayer? Also I can't remember the debate but was it about daily calls to prayer or was it for special events like March 15 remembrance or Ramadhan?

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:27 AM
To: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>; Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: call to prayer, s7(2)(a) etc - can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

Kia ora koutou,

We are still getting some questions about this on social media and it would be great to get a statement. [@Sean Audain](#) just checking that this wording is ok to use? Please edit where needed.

An amendment was passed during a Council meeting last week which instructs officers to speak with the Muslim community and look into religious observances as part of our district plan Noise chapter. This is a standard line of work carried out by Councils around the country. Broadcasts calls to prayer are not permitted, however if they were this would not be funded by the Council as this would be the operation of the religious group.

Please note, this was one amendment in a much larger discussion about the city's district plan which focuses on enabling more housing.

Ngā mihi,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

M **s7(2)(a)** E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:32 AM

To: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>; Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: call to prayer, **s7(2)(a)** etc - can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

Kia ora team,

FYI, we are now seeing some conversation around this on Social Media, see below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vicdeals/posts/7431853436891001/>

Mollie Coulton She/Her

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement |
Wellington City Council

E mollie.coulton@wcc.govt.nz | P **s7(2)(a)** | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 1:06 PM

To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Sean Audain <Sean.Audain@wcc.govt.nz>; Moana Mackey <Moana.Mackey@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Duindam <Michael.Duindam@wcc.govt.nz>; Adam McCutcheon <Adam.McCutcheon@wcc.govt.nz>; Stewart McKenzie <Stewart.McKenzie@wcc.govt.nz>; Andrew Wharton <Andrew.Wharton@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Mediacomms <Mediacomms@wcc.govt.nz>; Stephen McArthur <Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: call to prayer, **s7(2)(a)** etc - can anyone explain what's proposed re District Plan??

Greetings all – partly due to the exchange twixt the Mayor and **s7(2)(a)** on The Platform this morning – and the possibility we might get more media/social media inquiries, can any learned planner explain what's proposed re the District Plan and broadcast calls to prayer?? All intel appreciated...

Cheers

Richard M – media team

Out of scope

From: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:41 PM
To: s7(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Yep the staff will do the work – and it won't end up with the Minister – it's a separate process.
Cheers
Richard M – WCC Comms

From: s7(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:25 PM
To: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Question about call to prayer amendment

Thanks Richard, that's very helpful.

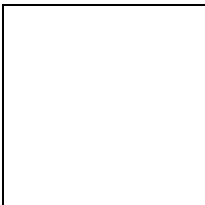
Can you clarify whether council officers will now do this work, or will this still have to be signed off by Chris Bishop with the rest of the district plan?

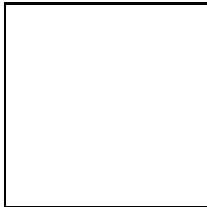
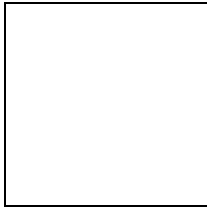
Thanks

s7(2)(a)

Executive Producer s7(2)(a) Drive |
Newstalk ZB

M: s7(2)(a)
E: s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz





From: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 19 March 2024 15:21
To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s7\(2\)\(a\)@nzme.co.nz](mailto:s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz)>
Cc: Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Greetings [s7\(2\)](#) Pearl's asked me to fire you a bit of info re the call-to-prayer discussion...

We have received enquiries through Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman asking about how calls to prayer might be made, noting that there has been issues with compliance with noise rules in the past.

The amendment passed at last week's committee meeting instructs council officers to return to the council with advice on what these compliance issues are, what rules might need amendment and how that might take place.

The council will have the ability to make a decision whether to continue with this work or initiate a District Plan change (if needed) with public consultation when that scoping paper comes back to the council table.

Cheers

Richard MacLean – WCC Comms [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#)

From: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 3:10 PM
To: Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Question about call to prayer amendment

From: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: [s7\(2\)\(a\)@nzme.co.nz](mailto:s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz)
Cc: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Kia ora

Copying you into Cr Matthews and Abdurahman, and Mayor Whanau's team to respond as elected members proposing an amendment to the DP.

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

[s7\(2\)\(a\)@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:s7(2)(a)@wcc.govt.nz)

victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | [W Wellington.govt.nz](http://W.Wellington.govt.nz) | www.wellington.govt.nz

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Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: [s7\(2\)\(a\)@nzme.co.nz](mailto:s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Media <media@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Question about call to prayer amendment

Hi there

I'm trying to understand more about an amendment to the District Plan that was passed on Thursday.

I understand it was in the name of Rebecca Matthews, but I've not had any luck speaking with her so am hoping you can help.

I'd like to know

- What exactly is the council being asked to investigate and why?

- Has any Wellington mosque asked to be allowed to broadcast the call to prayer or is this a pre-emptive change?
- What's the next step once the council reports back?

If you could please give me a quick answer by 1.30 pm that'd be great. Feel free to ring if you need to clarify anything.

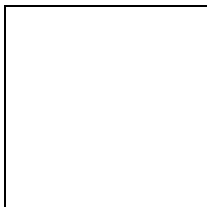
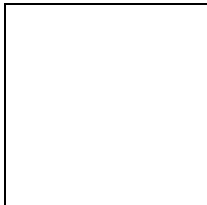
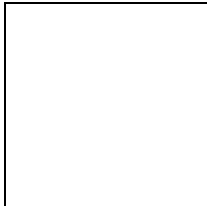
We would like to interview Rebecca or Tory or someone who can explain this to our listeners on the programme this afternoon if possible.

Thanks

s7(2)(a)

Executive Producer s7(2)(a) Drive |
Newstalk ZB

M: s7(2)(a)
E: s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz



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Out of scope

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 1:43 PM
To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Newshub - call to prayer

Awesome, thanks Pearl.
(Sorry for the late reply, just starting work now)

From: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:24 AM
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

Some further additional context:

There is no plan to allow regular broadcast of the call to prayer (five times a day). The amendment regarding the call to prayer simply asks Council officers to investigate the rules on noise restrictions and come back with advice.

This discussion came about because Council officers noted there is no allowance for a mosque to broadcast a call to prayer even for a special occasion such as the annual commemoration of the March 15 attacks.

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Newshub - call to prayer

Thanks Pearl!

From: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:23 AM
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

Hi s7(2)(a)

Please see below and attribute to Mayor Tory Whanau:

"Councils are responsible for regulating noise under District Plans. During last week's Council meeting, where multiple amendments were passed to enable more housing in Wellington City, officers were asked to investigate religious observances as part of our District Plan Noise chapter.

Council also voted to instruct staff to look at how the Plan can better support our music venues in the central city. Both amendments relating to noise were appropriate and raised according to proper process.

Council received enquiries through Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman asking about how calls to prayer might be made, noting a call to prayer currently can never be broadcast, even for the most significant occasions.

Many religious observances cause public noise. This amendment as a normal and sensible thing to look at for a modern and diverse city that prides itself on being welcoming. I am so proud to be the mayor of a city that not only welcomes but celebrates diversity and inclusion for all members of our community."

Thanks, P

Pearl Little (She/Her)

Principal Communications Specialist to the Mayor | Mātanga Whakapā Matua

M: s7(2)(a)

E: pearl.little@wcc.govt.nz



From: s7(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:16 PM

To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Newshub - call to prayer

Hi Pearl,

Yes, tomorrow would be great.

Thank you,

s7(2)(a)

From: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:14 PM

To: s7(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

Kia ora s7(2)(a),

What is your deadline? I will be able to get you something in the morning if that's okay.

Thanks 😊

Pearl Little (She/Her)

Principal Communications Specialist to the Mayor | Mātanga Whakapā Matua

M: s7(2)(a)

E: pearl.little@wcc.govt.nz



From: Tiumalu MG Sialava'a <tiumalu.sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 4:54 PM

To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Newshub - call to prayer

Hi, please see request below

Tiumalu

Tiumalu Maria-Goretti Sialava'a (She/Her)

Kaiārahi Matua ki te Koromatua | Executive Assistant to the Mayor

M: s7(2)(a)

E: tiumalu.sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz

From: s7(2)(a)

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 4:40 PM

To: Mayor <mayor@wcc.govt.nz>; Tiumalu MG Sialava'a <tiumalu.sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Newshub - call to prayer

Kia ora,

I see the mayor voted in favour of this - wondering if you can please answer my below questions about this.

Many thanks,

s7(2)(a)

From: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:06 PM

To: s7(2)(a)

Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments

Kia ora

Most of that information is on our website in the Meetings section: <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/environment-and-infrastructure-committee/2024/03/14>

If you have any further questions, suggest you get in touch with the elected members directly as this is part of an amendment for the DP during a committee meeting.

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/about-the-council/mayor-and-councillors/councillors>

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

P **s7(2)(a)**

E victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: **s7(2)(a)**

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:49 PM

To: Media <media@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Newshub - call to prayer

Kia ora team,

I am writing as a reporter for Newshub's website.

Getting in touch about this story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOr3zkELIWM>

Do you have a transcript of the meeting discussed here? When was it?

Can you please confirm what exactly the vote was on?

How many voted? Who was for and who was against?

Who raised this topic to be discussed and voted on? Did a member of the Muslim community bring this to council's attention?

What are the next steps now?

Many thanks,

s7(2)(a)

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, with the text 's7(2)(a)' written in red to the left of the box.

From: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:40 PM
To: Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

I have already turned down **s7(2)(a)** request to the Mayor last week

From: Pearl Little
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:40 PM
To: Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Hey guys,

I think it's best for Councillor Abdurahman to speak to this as it's his work.

Thanks

From: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: **s7(2)(a)** <[s7\(2\)\(a\)@nzme.co.nz](mailto:s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz)>
Cc: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Kia ora

Copying you into Cr Matthews and Abdurahman, and Mayor Whanau's team to respond as elected members proposing an amendment to the DP.

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

P **s7(2)(a)**

E victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Newshub - call to prayer

Thanks for getting back to me!

What's your views on this? Can you please provide a statement on why you voted for it?

Cheers,

s7(2)(a)

From: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <nureddin.abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 3:16 PM
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments

Hi s7(2)(a)

There is no plan to allow regular broadcast of the call to prayer in Wellington.

The amendment regarding the call to prayer simply asks Council officers to investigate the rules on noise restrictions and come back with advice.

This discussion came about because Council officers noted there is no allowance for a mosque to broadcast a call to prayer even for a special occasion such as the annual commemoration of the March 15 attacks.

Officers stated this issue could only be looked at as part of the District Plan. It is for this reason that Council passed an amendment to investigate the issue and report back on findings.

Note this is the text of the amendment:

“Instruct officers to report back to Council on how the district plan Noise chapter should enable broadcasted calls to prayer in the City.”

Nga mihi,

Clr Nureddin Abdurahman

Wellington City Councillor | **Paekawakawa Southern Ward**

Deputy Chair | Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee

Member | Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Council

Member | Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee

Member | Koata Hātepe | Regulatory Processes Committee
Member | Kōrau Tūāpapa | Environment and Infrastructure Committee
M: s7(2)(a) E Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz |



W Wellington.govt.nz | F [Nureddin Abdurahman](#)

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <nureddin.abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Newshub - call to prayer

Kia ora Councillor Nureddin,

I am writing as a reporter for Newshub's website.

Getting in touch about the council looking into noise regulations including religious observances (e.g. a call to prayer) even for special occasions.
<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/environment-and-infrastructure-committee/2024/03/14>

The mayor says this was brought about by you, so I wanted to reach out for comment on why you raised this.

Can you please provide me with a written statement on your views?

Many thanks,

s7(2)(a)

From: Sean Johnson <Sean.Johnson@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 1:04 PM
To: Lisa Petraschuk <Lisa.Petraschuk@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Muslim Call to Prayer

Are you able to reply to this please 😊

Ngā mihi nui,

Sean Johnson

(Pronouns: [he / him](#))

Democracy Team Leader | Kaiārahi Ratonga Manapori | Strategy & Governance |
Wellington City Council

M: [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) | E sean.johnson@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: BUS: Democracy Services <BUSdemocracyservices@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:56 PM
To: Sean Johnson <Sean.Johnson@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Muslim Call to Prayer

From: Mayoral Meetings <Mayoral.Meetings@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:47 AM
To: BUS: Democracy Services <BUSdemocracyservices@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Muslim Call to Prayer

Kia ora Dem Services team

Would you able to respond to the email below or let me know who I can follow up with about it. If you are responding to the email if you can cc me in that would be great.

Ngā mihi

Mitch (Michelle) Carroll (she/her)

Functions & Events Coordinator, Office of the Mayor | Wellington City Council
Kairuruku Taiopenga, Te Tari Koromatua | Kaunihera o Pōneke

M: [s7\(2\)\(a\)](#) | E mitch.carroll@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz  



From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:27 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Tiumalu MG Sialava'a <Tiumalu.Sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Muslim Call to Prayer

Ata marie Ms Whanau,

I am writing to express my concern that the council should be involved in a matter such as this.

I would be grateful if you could let me know

- a) the actual wording of the proposal
- a) which council member tabled or proposed it, and
- c) who voted for and against it and who, if anyone, abstained.

Thank you.

Nga mihi nui

s7(2)(a)

Out of scope

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:38 PM
To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>; Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>; Michael Naylor <Michael.Naylor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Question about call to prayer amendment

Tory Whanau

Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council

From: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: s7(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Cc: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Kia ora

Copying you into Cr Matthews and Abdurahman, and Mayor Whanau's team to respond as elected members proposing an amendment to the DP.

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

P s7(2)(a) <[REDACTED]>
E victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: s7(2)(a) [redacted] <[s7\(2\)\(a\)@nzme.co.nz](mailto:s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Media <media@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Question about call to prayer amendment

Hi there

I'm trying to understand more about an amendment to the District Plan that was passed on Thursday.

I understand it was in the name of Rebecca Matthews, but I've not had any luck speaking with her so am hoping you can help.

I'd like to know

- What exactly is the council being asked to investigate and why?
- Has any Wellington mosque asked to be allowed to broadcast the call to prayer or is this a pre-emptive change?
- What's the next step once the council reports back?

If you could please give me a quick answer by 1.30 pm that'd be great. Feel free to ring if you need to clarify anything.

We would like to interview Rebecca or Tory or someone who can explain this to our listeners on the programme this afternoon if possible.

Thanks

s7(2)(a)

Executive Producer s7(2)(a) [redacted] Drive |
Newstalk ZB

M: s7(2)(a) [redacted]
E: s7(2)(a) [redacted] <[s7\(2\)\(a\)@nzme.co.nz](mailto:s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz)>

From: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:39 PM

To: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: District Plan amendment re call to prayers

Thanks Nureddin and happy to have a chat but I would still like to understand from a process perspective how such an amendment came to be when it was not something that had been covered off in previous debates or in the substantive part of the paper or the commissioners findings. I would like to have something specific in writing outlining how this came to be and so there is a common understanding amongst us all.

Regards

Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

P **s7(2)(a)** **E** diane.calvert@wcc.govt.nz | **W** Wellington.govt.nz | **F** dianecalvertnz | **T** dianecalvertnz | **W** dianecalvert.nz

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From: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 11:40 AM

To: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: District Plan amendment re call to prayers

Salaam to you too Clr Calvert,

Thanks for sharing your concern and offer of a report to the Muslim community. Next time we meet, I am happy to chat on how to engage best with minority communities not because I have the expertise, but I have the lived experience.

On unrelated topic...

Just a reminder yesterday was an International Day To Combat Islamophobia. Islamophobia comes in different forms. It is unfortunate that, as you may agree with me, there are some people who like Islam but hate Muslims or say they like Muslims but hate anything Islamic.

For example, following the Christchurch terrorist attack Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that two minutes of silence following the 1:30pm call to prayer, which was broadcasted on television and radio. **s7(2)(a)** was the only vocal religious (cult) leader who slammed the decision, accusing Ardern of abusing her PM Power and turning NZ into a Muslim Nation.

Let us catch up next week and have a chat. We obviously have differences in certain areas, but I think I have built a good working relationship with you to address our differences in respectful manner.

Nga mihi,

Clr Nureddin Abdurahman

Wellington City Council

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Council | Member

Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee | Member

Koata Hātepe | Regulatory Processes Committee | Member

Kōrau Tūāpapa | Environment and Infrastructure Committee | Member

Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee | Deputy Chair

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From: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:45:22 PM

To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: District Plan amendment re call to prayers

Good afternoon/ As-salamu alaikum

I am attending an inter faith commemoration this evening to remember the terrible effects of the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre.

A number of representatives have asked me how the Council came to consider such a proposal for a “broadcasted call to prayers” as they were not aware of any request from the various religious and ethnic communities within Wellington. They are also concerned that such a proposal (even for officers to investigate) was not informally discussed with them.

Would you please advise where such a request came from and the amount of community support for it so I can report back.

It is also a timely reminder that if we did have an Ethnic advisory group, this is where you would expect such a suggestion to be discussed first and for them to be able to provide expert cultural feedback.

Regards

Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

P **s7(2)(a)** | **E** diane.calvert@wcc.govt.nz | **W** Wellington.govt.nz | **F** [dianecalvertnz](https://www.facebook.com/dianecalvertnz) | **T** [dianecalvertnz](https://www.instagram.com/dianecalvertnz) | **W** [dianecalvertnz](https://www.linkedin.com/company/dianecalvertnz)

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:30 AM
To: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <rebecca.matthews@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Good morning Rebecca,

Thank you for your reply.

I have just a couple of points to finish off with for the time being.

I wonder if you would mind referring to it as the Muslim call to prayer, as it appears that is what you are referring to. To not do so, I suggest, would leave you open to the accusation of practising a deception on the public.

And regarding church bells - something we rarely hear these days - I find it astonishing that a city councillor would consider them public noise. One wonders what the founding fathers (and mothers) of the city would make of such a statement.

Thank you again for your time in replying to my questions.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

On Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 02:17:06 pm NZDT, Councillor Rebecca Matthews <rebecca.matthews@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

Regards the wording of my amendment, any changes to terminology would be part of the policy work to come. When I talked about public noise I was referring to church bells.

Ngā mihi
Rebecca

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:12:32 PM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <liz.kelly@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Hello again Rebecca,

Thank you for your reply.

I wonder if you could clarify a couple of points for me please.

When you refer to the call to prayer, am I right in thinking you mean the **Muslim** call to prayer? Or are you suggesting that there are other groups wishing to have a broadcast public call to prayer? If it is limited to this one group, for reasons of clarity and accuracy, are you able to refer to it as the Muslim call to prayer?

You mention other religious observances causing **public noise** at times. I can think of perhaps two - church bells at, say, a wedding or on a Sunday morning, and a group of Hare Krishna devotees chanting in the street. Do you regard these as public noise? Are there any other examples of what you mean?

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

On Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 11:01:00 am NZDT, Councillor Rebecca Matthews <rebecca.matthews@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

I moved this amendment due to concerns raised that the call to prayer could never be broadcast, even for the most significant occasions.

The amendment was simply for staff to do more work on this as part of the noise work in the District Plan, so the policy work and consultation is all to come.

Other religious observances cause public noise at times, which is normal for a city. I see this amendment as a normal and sensible thing to look at for a modern diverse city.

Ngā mihi
Rebecca

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From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:28:02 AM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Council Investigating the Muslim Call to Prayer in Public.

Good morning,

I am writing to you in response to the news that the Council is looking in to some of the practicalities of having the Muslim Call to Prayer in public.

If this is the case, it strikes me as a remarkable initiative by the Council.

I would like to ask the Mayor and each of the councillors who voted in favour of this initiative (as I understand it, Councillors Abdulrahman, Foon, Pouwi Hohaia, Matthews, McNulty, O'Neill, Pannett, Rogers and Wi Neera) a couple of questions please.

- 1 Why did you vote for this initiative? and
- 2 What do you see as the desired outcome of it?

I would be grateful if each of you could give me your own personal reply please.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

s7(2)(a)

Out of scope

From: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 3:39 PM
To: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: District Plan amendment re call to prayers

Thanks Nureddin and happy to have a chat but I would still like to understand from a process perspective how such an amendment came to be when it was not something that had been covered off in previous debates or in the substantive part of the paper or the commissioners findings. I would like to have something specific in writing outlining how this came to be and so there is a common understanding amongst us all.

Regards

Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

P **s7(2)(a)** diane.calvert@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz | F [dianecalvertnz](tel:dianecalvertnz) | T [dianecalvertnz](tel:dianecalvertnz) | W dianecalvert.nz

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From: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: District Plan amendment re call to prayers

Salaam to you too Clr Calvert,

Thanks for sharing your concern and offer of a report to the Muslim community. Next time we meet, I am happy to chat on how to engage best with minority communities not because I have the expertise, but I have the lived experience.

On unrelated topic...

Just a reminder yesterday was an International Day To Combat Islamophobia. Islamophobia comes in different forms. It is unfortunate that, as you may agree with me, there are some people who like Islam but hate Muslims or say they like Muslims but hate anything Islamic.

For example, following the Christchurch terrorist attack Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that two minutes of silence following the 1:30pm call to prayer, which was broadcasted on television and radio. **s7(2)(a)** was the only vocal religious (cult) leader who slammed the decision, accusing Ardern of abusing her PM Power and turning NZ into a Muslim Nation.

Let us catch up next week and have a chat. We obviously have differences in certain areas, but I think I have built a good working relationship with you to address our differences in respectful manner.

Nga mihi,

Clr Nureddin Abdurahman

Wellington City Council

Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Council | Member

Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee | Member

Koata Hātepe | Regulatory Processes Committee | Member

Kōrau Tūāpapa | Environment and Infrastructure Committee | Member

Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee | Deputy Chair

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From: Councillor Diane Calvert <Diane.Calvert@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:45:22 PM

To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: District Plan amendment re call to prayers

Good afternoon/ As-salamu alaikum

I am attending an inter faith commemoration this evening to remember the terrible effects of the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre.

A number of representatives have asked me how the Council came to consider such a proposal for a “broadcasted call to prayers” as they were not aware of any request from the various religious and ethnic communities within Wellington. They are also concerned that such a proposal (even for officers to investigate) was not informally discussed with them.

Would you please advise where such a request came from and the amount of community support for it so I can report back.

It is also a timely reminder that if we did have an Ethnic advisory group, this is where you would expect such a suggestion to be discussed first and for them to be able to provide expert cultural feedback.

Regards

Diane

Councillor Diane Calvert

Wellington City Council | Wharangi/Onslow-Western Ward

P **s7(2)(a)** | **E** diane.calvert@wcc.govt.nz | **W** Wellington.govt.nz | **F** [dianecalvertnz](tel:dianecalvertnz) | **T** [dianecalvertnz](tel:dianecalvertnz) | **W** dianecalvert.nz

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From: s7(2)(a) @theplatform.kiwi>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 11:29 AM
To: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: media enquiry

Hi there Nureddin

s7(2)(a) here from The Platform. We've been getting local councillors on to get their views about the Mayors motion to allow mosques to broadcast the call to prayer from loud speakers. Would you be up for a phone call interview with s7(2)(a) on the breakfast show tomorrow at 7:10 or 7:30am?

Let me know
Many thanks

s7(2)(a)

Journalist/Producer

M: s7(2)(a) | s7(@theplatform.kiwi

THE PLATFORM

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 8:48 AM
To: Lisa Petraschuk <Lisa.Petraschuk@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Muslim Call to Prayer

Good morning Lisa,

Thank you for your prompt and helpful reply.

Nga mihi nui,

s7(2)(a)

On Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 01:23:51 pm NZDT, Lisa Petraschuk <lisa.petraschuk@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for your email regarding the Muslim Call to Prayer resolution that recently went to the Kōrau Tūāpapa | Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 14 March 2024.

In response to your specific questions:

- the actual wording of the proposal
 - Instruct officers to report back to Council on how the district plan Noise chapter should enable broadcasted calls to prayer in the City.
- which council member tabled or proposed it, and
 - Councillor Matthews proposed the amendment.
- who voted for and against it and who, if anyone, abstained.
 - This was voted on twice, once for the amendment to be accepted and then again as part of the full recommendation.
 - For the first vote it was 10:7 for and the breakdown is as follows:
 - **For:** Mayor Whanau, Councillor Abdurahman, Deputy Mayor Foon, Pouivi Hohaia, Councillor

Matthews, Councillor McNulty, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett,
Councillor Rogers,

Councillor Wi Neera

- **Against:** Councillor Apanowicz, Councillor Brown, Councillor Chung, Councillor Free, Pouivi Kelly, Councillor Randle, Councillor Young
- **Absent:** Councillor Calvert
- For the Second vote it was 10:7 for and the breakdown is as follows:
 - **For:** Mayor Whanau, Councillor Abdurahman, Deputy Mayor Foon, Pouivi Hohaia, Councillor

Matthews, Councillor McNulty, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett,
Councillor Rogers,

Councillor Wi Neera

From: Councillor Sarah Free <Sarah.Free@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:32 PM
To: Hedi Mueller <Hedi.Mueller@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sean Johnson <Sean.Johnson@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Miscast votes today in Committee

Hi there, I've already spoken to Hedi about this, but due to the changes made to the numbering of the amendments, I cast a couple of votes in error on the final voting. Can these please be corrected in the minutes .

I meant to vote in favour of # 11 the MRT route and against #14 the broadcasted call to prayer. (consistent with my earlier vote on this issue)

Many thanks

Councillor Sarah Free

Motukairangi Eastern Ward Councillor
Chair, Regulatory Processes Committee

Wellington City Council

M s7(2)(a)

E sarah.free@wcc.govt.nz |



Out of scope



From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:50 PM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Kia ora Ms Whanau,

Thank you for your reply.

Nga mihi,

s7(2)(a) .

On Monday, 25 March 2024 at 12:01:25 pm NZDT, Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for your email. My reasons for supporting the amendment are similar to those expressed by Councillor Matthews.

The amendment directed Council staff to investigate options around the call to prayer as part of the noise work in the District Plan. The next step is for them to do that policy work and consult with the public before Council makes any further decision.

Other religious observances cause public noise at times, especially to mark important dates or events. So, I supported this amendment as an appropriate thing to look at for a modern, diverse and welcoming city.

Tory Whanau

Tory Whanau

Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Hello again,

I am writing to follow up on my email of 20 March asking two questions of the Mayor and councillors who voted in favour of the proposal to explore having the Muslim call to prayer broadcast in public.

I have received replies from two councillors, one of whom answered my questions. (Thank you, Councillor Matthews.)

I would be grateful to receive your reply when you have a moment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

Out of scope

From: Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 12:01 PM
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: FW: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Kia ora s7(2)(a)

Thank you for your email. My reasons for supporting the amendment are similar to those expressed by Councillor Matthews.

The amendment directed Council staff to investigate options around the call to prayer as part of the noise work in the District Plan. The next step is for them to do that policy work and consult with the public before Council makes any further decision.

Other religious observances cause public noise at times, especially to mark important dates or events. So, I supported this amendment as an appropriate thing to look at for a modern, diverse and welcoming city.

Tory Whanau

Tory Whanau
Mayor of Wellington | Wellington City Council

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>; Liz Kelly <Liz.Kelly@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Hello again,

I am writing to follow up on my email of 20 March asking two questions of the Mayor and councillors who voted in favour of the proposal to explore having the Muslim call to prayer broadcast in public.

I have received replies from two councillors, one of whom answered my questions. (Thank you, Councillor Matthews.)

I would be grateful to receive your reply when you have a moment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

From: Mayor
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:45 AM
To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

Great, thank you

Tiumalu

Tiumalu Maria-Goretti Sialava'a (She/Her)
Kaiārahi Matua ki te Koromatua | Executive Assistant to the Mayor

M s7(2)(a)
E tiumalu.sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz

From: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:42 AM
To: Mayor <Mayor@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

I've responded!

From: Mayor <Mayor@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:42 AM
To: Pearl Little <Pearl.Little@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Newshub - call to prayer

Hi Pearl
Is this anything we need to reply to?
Tiumalu

Tiumalu Maria-Goretti Sialava'a (She/Her)
Kaiārahi Matua ki te Koromatua | Executive Assistant to the Mayor

M s7(2)(a)
E tiumalu.sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 4:40 PM
To: Mayor <mayor@wcc.govt.nz>; Tiumalu MG Sialava'a <tiumalu.sialava'a@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Newshub - call to prayer

Kia ora,

I see the mayor voted in favour of this - wondering if you can please answer my below questions about this.

Many thanks,

s7(2)(a)

From: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:06 PM
To: s7(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Newshub - call to prayer

EXTERNAL SENDER: Caution opening links or attachments

Kia ora

Most of that information is on our website in the Meetings section: <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/environment-and-infrastructure-committee/2024/03/14>

If you have any further questions, suggest you get in touch with the elected members directly as this is part of an amendment for the DP during a committee meeting.

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/about-the-council/mayor-and-councillors/councillors>

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

P s7(2)(a) | M s7(2)(a)

E victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: s7(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:49 PM
To: Media <media@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Newshub - call to prayer

Kia ora team,

I am writing as a reporter for Newshub's website.

Getting in touch about this story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOr3zkELIWM>

Do you have a transcript of the meeting discussed here? When was it?

Can you please confirm what exactly the vote was on?

How many voted? Who was for and who was against?

Who raised this topic to be discussed and voted on? Did a member of the Muslim community bring this to council's attention?

What are the next steps now?

Many thanks,

s7(2)(a)

From: 7(2)(a) [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:19 PM

To: Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon <Laurie.Foon@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Mosque calls to prayer initiative

Councillors

Is Tory serious!!?? Is she deliberately wanting to wind up the constituents with this. Such calls to prayer are offensive to secular NZ. Irrespective of the religion, but particular Islam, they have some horrific and brutal instructions in their Koran and other religious texts related to the gay community.

7(2)(f)(ii) [REDACTED].

REPORTED

Amendments by mayor Tory Whanau

Changes to noise limits for music venues and prayer calls

Instruct council staff to report back on options to ensure music venues aren't affected by noise limits. ... Whanau also wants changes to allow broadcasted calls to prayer to be played from loudspeakers on mosques and other religious buildings.

From: s7(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:34 AM

To: Mayor Tory Whanau <tory.whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; DL: Councillors <councillors@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Following up on my email of 20 March.

Hello again,

I am writing to follow up on my email of 20 March asking two questions of the Mayor and councillors who voted in favour of the proposal to explore having the Muslim call to prayer broadcast in public.

I have received replies from two councillors, one of whom answered my questions. (Thank you, Councillor Matthews.)

I would be grateful to receive your reply when you have a moment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

s7(2)(a)

From: Media <Media@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:27 PM
To: s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz
Cc: Councillor Rebecca Matthews <Rebecca.Matthews@wcc.govt.nz>; Mayor Tory Whanau <Tory.Whanau@wcc.govt.nz>; Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman <Nureddin.Abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Question about call to prayer amendment

Kia ora

Copying you into Cr Matthews and Abdurahman, and Mayor Whanau's team to respond as elected members proposing an amendment to the DP.

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

P s7(2)(a)
E victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

From: s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Media <media@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Question about call to prayer amendment

Hi there

I'm trying to understand more about an amendment to the District Plan that was passed on Thursday.

I understand it was in the name of Rebecca Matthews, but I've not had any luck speaking with her so am hoping you can help.

I'd like to know

- What exactly is the council being asked to investigate and why?

- Has any Wellington mosque asked to be allowed to broadcast the call to prayer or is this a pre-emptive change?
- What's the next step once the council reports back?

If you could please give me a quick answer by 1.30 pm that'd be great. Feel free to ring if you need to clarify anything.

We would like to interview Rebecca or Tory or someone who can explain this to our listeners on the programme this afternoon if possible.

Thanks

s7(2)(a)

Executive Producer s7(2)(a) Drive |
Newstalk ZB

M: s7(2)(a)
E: s7(2)(a)@nzme.co.nz

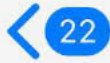
I'm reporting on the council amendment to allow the broadcast of the call to prayer. I was wondering if you would be available for a quick phone interview this afternoon to give some clarification on this? I understand that it would only be played on special occasions so would love to chat to hear more about it? Let me know! Thanks

Wed, 20 Mar at 2:53 PM

Thanks for the chat Nureddin, really appreciate it and great to get some clarity on the situation. Thanks!

The sender is not in your contact list

11:05



s7(2)(a)

iMessage

Mon, 18 Mar at 3:56 PM

Hi Nureddin - s7(2)(a) here from The Platform. We've been interviewing local councillors on the submission to allow mosques to broadcast the call to prayer. Are you available to speak with s7(2)(a) tomorrow morning at 8:10 or 8:30 on that?

Text Message

Hi Nureddin - s7(2)(a) here from The Platform. We've been interviewing local councillors on the submission to allow mosques to broadcast the call to prayer. Are you available to speak with s7(2)(a) tomorrow morning at 8:10 or 8:30 on that?



iMessage



I produce

s7(2)(a)

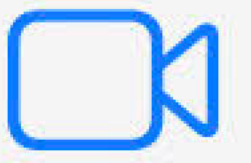
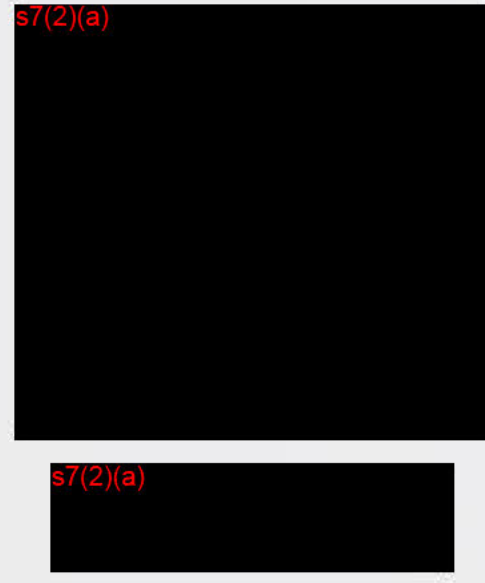
s7(2)(a)

Drive here, are you able to give me a quick call re the amendment on the call to prayer in the District Plan? Thanks,

s7(2)(a)

The sender is not in your contact list.

[Report Spam](#)



Update



Hi Rebecca, [redacted] here again ringing through. The mayors office tells me you're the best person to speak to regarding this amendment so could you please give me a call back as soon as possible? Thanks!

Sorry not available now

Read 14/03/24

When's a better time?

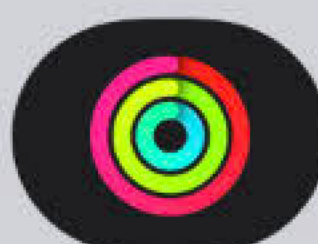
Mon, 18 Mar at 1:18 PM

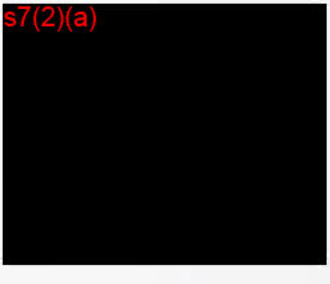
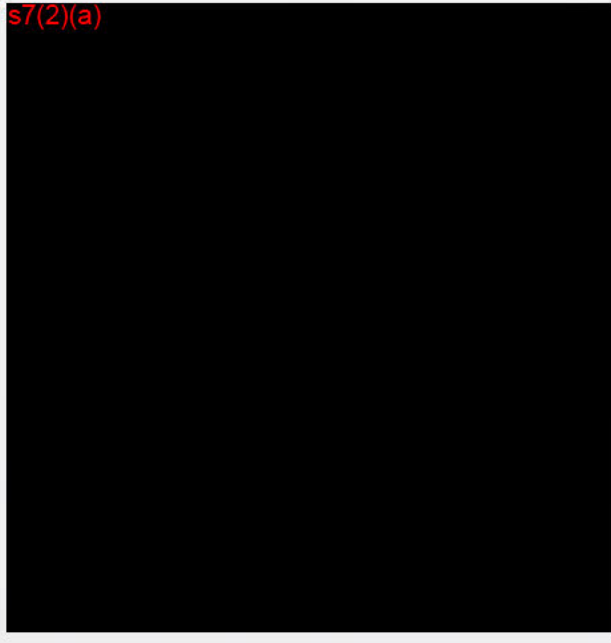
Hi Rebecca, this is [redacted] calling from Newstalk ZB. Hoping you could give me a quick call back for a background chat on the call to prayer amendment last Thursday. I'd like to understand more about it. Thanks!

Tue, 19 Mar at 2:46 PM



iMessage





New name available

Update



give me a call back as soon as possible? Thanks!

Sorry not available now

Read 14/03/24

When's a better time?

Mon, 18 Mar at 1:18 PM

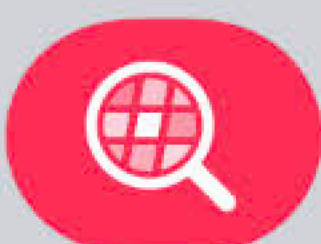
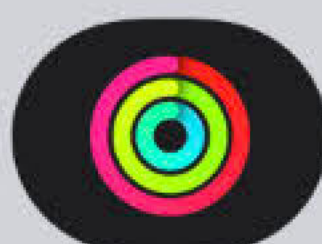
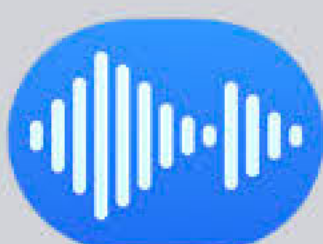
Hi Rebecca, this is [redacted] calling from Newstalk ZB. Hoping you could give me a quick call back for a background chat on the call to prayer amendment last Thursday. I'd like to understand more about it. Thanks!

Tue, 19 Mar at 2:46 PM

Hi Rebecca, [redacted] here again at Newstalk ZB. We will be running a story on the amendment today, can you please give me a call back? Thanks



iMessage



- Matthew Borich , Manager of Compliance and Advice (which includes the provision of acoustical advice) was advised by Sean Audain manager of strategic planning of a request for a potential “Call for Prayer” provisions in the Plan during a very short approximately 5-minute meeting, at Matthew’s desk. Brief general conversational, no details were provided except that noise emissions would result during a “call to prayer”.
- Matthew advises his noise specialists. The enclosed background (educational) notes on what is Call to Prayer was developed by Lindsey Hannah and emailed to Matthew Borich. We hold no further information.
- Matthew Borich rings Sean Audain on Teams (Approximate 5-minute discussion) to ascertain further information on what the proposal may look like. Sean informs Matthew it is unlikely to be a daily occurrence more likely to be undertaken for the most important gathering of the week. No other information was available.