

29 April 2016

Jordan Williams  
New Zealand Taxpayers Union Inc.

By email to: [requests@taxpayers.org.nz](mailto:requests@taxpayers.org.nz)

Dear Mr Williams

### **Official Information Request Response**

Thank you for your information request, received by the Council on 29 January 2016, requesting the following:

**“A copy of the Deputy Mayor’s PowerPoint presentation in which he outlines the deal between Singapore Airlines and Wellington City Council. In the event that the Council denies this request under section 7(2)(b)(ii) on the basis that the information would be commercially prejudicial, please provide specific reasons why the release would be prejudicial, given that financial information about the deal is now in the public domain.”**

The Mayor was not able to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council due to her position as a member of the Wellington International Airport Limited Board. This would have created a conflict of interest. The Deputy Mayor signed the agreement on behalf of the Council, deputising for the Mayor.

The PowerPoint to which you refer was provided to the Deputy Mayor by the Chief Executive, and also sent out to the Regional Mayors. Please find a copy attached.

**“Are there any other instances where the Council has come to a commercial arrangement where the existence of a grant or Council support has been agreed to be kept secret from ratepayers? If not, why was the Singapore Airlines deal an exception? Who approved the same?”**

The Council is a large and diverse organisation that enters into a range of commercial arrangements in the normal course of business. It is not unusual for these to include requirements around confidentiality. Generally if there are confidentiality requirements they relate to information that is commercially sensitive or in confidence. The provision of incentives to airlines is fairly common practice both in NZ and overseas in what is a very competitive market and why the providers of incentives and the recipients treat these as commercial and in confidence.

**“Who negotiated the deal with Singapore Airlines? Please provide the delegated authority for this.”**

This was a multi-party negotiation involving Singapore Airlines, Wellington International Airport and Wellington City Council. The funding provided for Route development and marketing support as part of this agreement was by WREDA through the core funding provided by WCC to WREDA and specifically the Destination Wellington component of that funding. The funding is included within Council's long term plan and the delegation is exercised by the Chief Executive (having first briefed Councillors).

**“There are reports that the Deputy Mayor was invoked with the negotiation. If so, what steps, if any, were taken to ensure that he has no personal interest in any airlines, associated entities or airline employees prior to the negotiation?”**

The Deputy Mayor was not involved in the negotiations. As detailed in response to an earlier question, the Deputy Mayor signed the agreement on behalf of the Council, deputising for the Mayor.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

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

Chris Brown  
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