

27 January 2021

Kia ora

Thank you for your refined request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 10 November 2021. You requested the following information:

- Any correspondence (emails, memos, notes, minutes, recordings, other documents) between the Chief Executive's office and the Mayor's office which were made between the dates of January 1, 2021 and today's date, November 10, 2021, which mention the words: "Experience Wellington" and "restructure" or "City Gallery" and "restructure".

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information at no cost.

The Council received an estimate of 44 correspondence (letters/email) from the Community regarding the Experience Wellington restructure. It was agreed with the Mayor, Councillors and the Executive Leadership team that a co-ordinated generic response should be sent out via the Chief Executive's office and the Mayor's Office.

Below are the documents that fall in scope of your request and my decision to release the document.

Item	Document name/description	Decision
1.	Co-ordinated EW response to emails - 4 May 2021	Release
2.	Email response - Experience Wellington - 5 May 2021	Release
3.	Email response - Experience Wellington - 6 May 2021	Release
4.	Questions regarding consultation 18 May 2021	Release with redactions
5.	Finance and Performance - 17 June 2021	Release with redactions

Items 4-5 have redactions applied under section 7(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

As per our conversation last week on 18 January 2021, it was agreed that the Council would provide you with the correspondence regarding "Experience Wellington," "Restructure" or "City Gallery". The Council is unable to track down a copy of the excel spreadsheet that track the number of correspondences received from members of the public, we have been able to provide an estimate of how many correspondences was received and a copy of the generic response sent out to each person.

#### 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](http://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 question, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Asha Harry  
**Senior Advisor**  
**Official Information team**

Proactive Release

## Asha Harry

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**Subject:** FW: Co-ordinated EW response to emails

**From:** Gisella Carr <[Gisella.Carr@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Gisella.Carr@wcc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 10:26 am

**To:** Jessica Beyeler <[Jessica.Beyeler@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Jessica.Beyeler@wcc.govt.nz)>; Katherine Meerman <[Katherine.Meerman@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Katherine.Meerman@wcc.govt.nz)>;  
Natasha Petkovic-Jeremic <[Natasha.Petkovic-Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Natasha.Petkovic-Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz)>; Warwick Hayes  
<[Warwick.Hayes@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Warwick.Hayes@wcc.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Dejan Jeremic <[Dejan.Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Dejan.Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz)>; Linda Vekula <[Linda.Vekula@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Linda.Vekula@wcc.govt.nz)>; Claire Richardson  
<[Claire.Richardson@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Claire.Richardson@wcc.govt.nz)>; Stephen McArthur <[Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Co-ordinated EW response to emails

Can I suggest 4.30pm today? Even if not all of us can do it? Best Gisella

**From:** Jessica Beyeler <[Jessica.Beyeler@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Jessica.Beyeler@wcc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 May 2021 9:19 am

**To:** Katherine Meerman <[Katherine.Meerman@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Katherine.Meerman@wcc.govt.nz)>; Gisella Carr <[Gisella.Carr@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Gisella.Carr@wcc.govt.nz)>; Natasha  
Petkovic-Jeremic <[Natasha.Petkovic-Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Natasha.Petkovic-Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz)>; Warwick Hayes <[Warwick.Hayes@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Warwick.Hayes@wcc.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Dejan Jeremic <[Dejan.Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Dejan.Jeremic@wcc.govt.nz)>; Linda Vekula <[Linda.Vekula@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Linda.Vekula@wcc.govt.nz)>; Claire Richardson  
<[Claire.Richardson@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Claire.Richardson@wcc.govt.nz)>; Stephen McArthur <[Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Stephen.McArthur@wcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Co-ordinated EW response to emails

Hi team

Given the number of emails that council officers are receiving with regards to the confidential draft staff consultation that Experience Wellington are undertaking, it's important that we have a co-ordinated approach with our responses. It's ok if you have already acknowledged and responded already, but rather than 5 or 6 people sending responses to the same person or different responses, we think it makes sense to send one on behalf of council. In some cases this might be better coming from Barbara or Claire – we can discuss further when we meet.

If there are others within WCC that you know are receiving related emails, please let me know and I can add them to this group.

Initial thoughts are that we meet to discuss:

- A recommended response
- Who we have received emails from (cross-check)
- Who is best to respond to each person

Am open to other suggestions – how are people placed today or tomorrow to meet/teams?

Jessica

**Jessica Beyeler**

Executive Officer | Chief Executive's Office | Wellington City Council

M 021 348 046

E [jessica.beyeler@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:jessica.beyeler@wcc.govt.nz) | W [Wellington.govt.nz](http://Wellington.govt.nz) |  | 

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**Asha Harry**

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**Subject:** FW: Email response - Experience Wellington

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**From:** Jessica Beyeler  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 May 2021 2:16 pm  
**To:** Linda Vekula <[Linda.Vekula@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Linda.Vekula@wcc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Claire Barlow <[Claire.Barlow@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Claire.Barlow@wcc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Email response - Experience Wellington

Hi Linda

Just to confirm details for this afternoon:

- Personalised email to be sent from Barbara
- CC in all WCC staff that were sent the email (column E) – not councillors
- Any new emails from this afternoon onwards to receive this response from Barbara (perhaps do in clusters at the start of each day??)

Kia ora **XXXX**

Thank you for your email with regards to Experience Wellington.

Experience Wellington, alongside all other Wellington City Council controlled organisations, has autonomy over its organisational structure and works to an independent Board of Trustees. The Council has no role in shaping or determining organisational structure matters involving staff.

Recently, the Council received and considered Experience Wellington's draft Statement of Intent which included the organisation's strategic vision which aligns with the Council's expectations of the Trust.

As part of the intended delivery of the strategy, Experience Wellington is focused on enhancing WCC's cultural institutions through better allocation of resources and greater collaboration and embracing of te ao Māori. The Council and Experience Wellington remain committed to continuing to showcase the best contemporary art under strong cultural leadership dedicated to art education, gallery exhibition delivery, and art community engagement.

If you have any further questions on the implementation of the organisation's [strategies and plans](#) I encourage you to contact Sarah Rusholme, Chief Executive of Experience Wellington.

Ngā mihi  
Barbara McKerrow

**Jessica Beyeler**  
Executive Officer | Chief Executive's Office | Wellington City Council  
M 021 348 046  
E [jessica.beyeler@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:jessica.beyeler@wcc.govt.nz) | W [Wellington.govt.nz](http://Wellington.govt.nz) |  | 

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**Asha Harry**

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**Subject:** FW: Email response - Experience Wellington**From:** Jessica Beyeler**Sent:** Thursday, 6 May 2021 12:40 pm**To:** Angela Nicholas <[Angela.Nicholas@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:Angela.Nicholas@wcc.govt.nz)>**Subject:** FW: Email response - Experience Wellington

FYI – just in case you didn't already have this, this is what we sent out yesterday as single response from WCC on behalf of staff.

Happy days

Jessica

Kia ora **XXXX**

Thank you for your email with regards to Experience Wellington.

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Ngā mihi

Barbara McKerrow

**Jessica Beyeler**

Executive Officer | Chief Executive's Office | Wellington City Council

M 021 348 046

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**Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Proactive Release



## Asha Harry

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**From:** John Bullock  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 May 2021 1:40 pm  
**To:** Anna Chalmers  
**Subject:** RE: questions on consultation..

Kia Ora Anna

Hi Anna

Apologies for the delay in getting back and thanks for the heads up. I see you have just sent an update which I believe addresses the issue and therefore currently we are in a good space.

Regards  
JB

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**From:** Anna Chalmers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 May 2021 13:22  
**To:** John Bullock [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: questions on consultation..

Kia ora John,

I'm reaching out to you as I understand the Mayor would like to have a statement to use in regard to the change proposal at Experience Wellington and his expectations around the process. Would you like us to draft something for you to consider? Below is what we sent the Dompost on Friday, though most of this is reflected in Saturday's news article.

Happy to discuss, I'm on [REDACTED]. I'm free after 2.30pm.

Ngā mihi,  
Anna

**Kaiwhakahaere Matua - Tuku Kōrero | Communications Manager**



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**From:** Anna Chalmers  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 May 2021 12:56 PM  
**To:** Andre Chumko <[andre.chumko@stuff.co.nz](mailto:andre.chumko@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Cc:** Wellington NDs <[wellington@stuff.co.nz](mailto:wellington@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: questions on consultation..

Kia ora Andre and Dompost/Stuff team,

Below is the response from Experience Wellington, regarding Andre's email query yesterday.

There are a couple points in addition to our [media statement here](#) – they can be attributed to *Experience Wellington Chief Executive Dr Sarah Rusholme*

Our focus is currently on the internal consultation process underway. Once staff consultation is complete, we will be in a better position to talk with our stakeholders.

A strong and vibrant City Gallery is our priority. City Gallery would continue to showcase the best contemporary art under a strong cultural leader, supported by two curators, and specialist staff, should the proposal be implemented.

We acknowledge the passion of the sector and the diverse views. As I am sure you will understand it is important for us to maintain the integrity of the change process and respect the employment rights of those involved.

ENDS

Ngā mihi,  
Anna

**Kaiwhakahaere Matua - Tuku Kōrero | Communications Manager**



Please consider the environment before printing this email 

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**From:** Andre Chumko <[andre.chumko@stuff.co.nz](mailto:andre.chumko@stuff.co.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 May 2021 4:11 PM

**To:** Anna Chalmers [REDACTED]

**Subject:** questions on consultation..

Hi Anna..

Hey, you would have seen the recent open letters regarding the Experience Wellington restructure proposal.

Did it want to respond to any of the open letters?

How would it respond to criticism that the consultation should be opened further than just internal so external stakeholders can provide input? Is it considering input from external parties at this stage? (& why/why not?) Would it ever consider input from external parties/stakeholders Why/why not?

Also how does it feel about the council describing the proposal as an "operational matter" for EW?

Please get back to me by 1pm tomorrow if possible -- please CC in [wellington@stuff.co.nz](mailto:wellington@stuff.co.nz) to any response, and many thanks in advance,

Andre

--

**Andre Chumko** (he/him)  
Arts and culture reporter

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**Asha Harry**

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**From:** Hedi Mueller  
**Sent:** Friday, 11 June 2021 5:00 pm  
**To:** Michael Algar; Sara Hay  
**Cc:** Stephen McArthur  
**Subject:** Finance and Performance - 17th June

Kia ora koutou,

Flagging a couple of things re next Thursday:

- Highly likely the meeting will run long, as CCOs' representatives are coming to speak, and it's possible there will be public participation requests to speak to the Experience Wellington restructure
- Jennifer has said that elected members have a lunch booking at 12pm – wondering what the flexibility is around this and whether we'd be able to lengthen the meeting?

Ngā mihi,  
Hedi

**Hedi Mueller (she/her)**

Democracy Advisor | Strategy & Governance | Wellington City Council  
[REDACTED] | [W Wellington.govt.nz](http://WWellington.govt.nz) |

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