

15 January 2026

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government
S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Hon Watts,

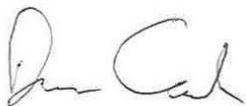
RE: Electoral Officer Withholding Information for Vetting of Electoral Process

I am a second term Councillor with Taupo District Council, and I am writing this letter to inform you of the intransigence of our Electoral officer **Warrick Lampp** of **Electionz.com** who steadfastly refused to respond to my enquiry regarding potential voter mail fraud in my district. I had no hard evidence this was occurring, but simply requested the data of double-ups (i.e. special vote plus a mailed vote) to affirm there were nothing untoward going on.

I made this enquiry only days after the local election, and well before the Papatoetoe case was publicized. I will leave below a transcript of the email conversation and subsequent letter (which is still un-responded) between Warrick and myself, and I am hoping you will agree the degree of arrogance on display is quite disturbing. My LGOIMA request to Council for information regarding the Electionz.com contract agreement was also refused, and is also shown below.

I therefore implore you to tackle this intransigence of electoral providers which I believe is completely unreasonable in the context of proper election oversight, and look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,



Councillor Duncan Campbell
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Email transcript 13-14 October 2025:

13 Oct 2025

Hello Warwick,

I want to enquire about potential voter fraud manipulations, specifically the potential occurrence of some peoples voting papers being taken from their letterboxes and subsequently filled in on their behalf without their consent.

I am supposing that a portion of these people will be making special votes instead, and so your office will be receiving two voting papers from the same person. **Can you please tell me if your system can detect these instances, and how many have occurred for the Taupo District?**

Councillor Duncan Campbell

13 Oct 2025

Hi Duncan

I haven't seen any categorical evidence of this, we haven't seen a pattern of this across the country.

However, once an elector completes a special vote, we know who they are because of the declaration they complete, so when we process the special vote, we check to see if there has been an ordinary vote returned. If so, because we know the special is "the person", we go and delete the ordinary vote.

We do this check in every council, over the next few days, before the final result.

Cheers, Warwick

14 Oct 2025

Hi Warwick,

That is good that this happens as I assumed.

So can I please request the details of how many of these double-ups have occurred in the Taupo District and by ward status?

Councillor Duncan Campbell

14 Oct 2025

Hi Duncan, yes, you can request, but no, I won't be providing that level of detail, that is not publicly available information.

Warwick

14 Oct 2025

Hi Warwick,

Can I please ask:

- 1/ Do you retain and record this data anyway?
- 2/ To whom exactly should I be enquiring if I want to get this information - Taupo District Council, or the Electoral Commission?

Councillor Duncan Campbell

14 Oct 2025

Hello Duncan

These details are a part of my Electoral Officer reconciliation process for every council's final result process, which is not publicly available, nor discoverable. It is part of my internal process as EO, and is not provided to the Council. The person to enquire about this is me, and only me.

FYI, I have reminded you many times already, the Electoral Commission has no oversight of council elections, so there is no point you enquiring of them. If you do they will refer you back to me.

Likewise, I am not subject to LGOIMA, so no point in sending me or the council a LGOIMA request.

This level of detail will not be made available.

Regards, Warwick

14 Oct 2025

Interesting response Warwick,

I will be following up this claim of yours that transparency doesn't apply to you.

I attach my letter to formally request the data I am asking for.

Look forward to your reply (REPLY WAS NEVER RECEIVED).

Thanks,

Councillor Duncan Campbell

LGOIMA request for information regarding Electionz.com received 10 November 2025:

Tēnā koe Councillor Campbell

Your requests dated 14 Oct 2025 and 20 October 2025 have been processed under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

Please see below responses to your questions in blue font.

14 October 2025 LGOIMA: Electoral Officer Service Agreement and Oversight

1. *A copy of the current service agreement or contract between TDC and Electionz.com (or any other provider) relating to the delivery of electoral services for the 2025 local election.*

This part of your request is refused under section 7(2)(b) of LGOIMA to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. This is because ElectioNZ operates in a very limited supplier market (only two suppliers) and revealing the contract terms between ElectioNZ and Taupō District Council would likely give its single competitor an advantage (and therefore prejudice the commercial position of ElectioNZ) because its competitor would have an opportunity to negotiate more favourable terms with the Council when the Council next went to market for electoral services.

2. Any clauses in that agreement relating to:

- *Reporting obligations to the Council or its Chief Executive.*

The Electoral Officer (EO) does not have any official reporting requirements to the Council in either the contract or the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA). The EO is a statutory appointment governed by the legislative requirements of the LEA, which does not permit the Council's Chief Executive, nor candidates, elected members or electors of the public to direct the EO. The Electoral Commission has no jurisdiction over the EO. The Ombudsman has no jurisdiction over the EO. Under the LEA, the only person that can direct the EO is a District Court Judge.

- *Oversight, audit, or performance monitoring of the Electoral Officer.*

This is subject to the LEA, the Council has no part in this, there is no oversight, audit or performance monitoring of the EO in the LEA (refer above comment regarding a District Court Judge).

- *Ownership or retention of electoral data, records, or reconciliations.*

There are no clauses in the contract regarding this, these matters are covered in the LEA.

3. Any internal Council policies or memoranda that define how information requests from elected members (or the public) regarding election administration are to be handled.

This part of your request is refused under s 17(g) of LGOIMA because the information requested is not held by the Council. There are no specific internal Council policies or memoranda that define how information requests from elected members (or the public) regarding election administration are to be handled.

20 October 2025 LGOIMA: How much did we pay Electionz.com

1. Can you please tell me how much this Council paid Electionz.com to undertake the 2025 local government election? If Council didn't pay them, who did?

This part of your request is refused under section 7(2)(b) of LGOIMA to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. This is because ElectioNZ operates in a very limited supplier market (only two suppliers) and revealing how much Taupō District Council paid ElectioNZ would likely give its single competitor an advantage (and therefore prejudice the commercial position of ElectioNZ) because its competitor

would have an opportunity to undercut ElectioNZ were the Council to go to market for electoral services.

If you believe your request for information has not been adequately dealt with you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, and their contact details are:

Phone: 0800 802 602

Email: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Website: www.ombudsman.govt.nz

Ngā mihi

Business Support Team - Te Roopu Tautāwhi Ūmanga

Taupō District Council