

**From:** [Andrea Jones](#)  
**To:** [Grace Ockwell](#)  
**Subject:** FW: electronic communication  
**Date:** Monday, 13 July 2015 09:10:26 a.m.

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Hi Grace

Here's the response. Hope you are having a good break now!

Thanks

Andrea Jones  
Communications Team Leader, Council Communications and Marketing  
Dunedin City Council

50 The Octagon, Dunedin; P O Box 5045, Moray Place, Dunedin 9058, New Zealand  
Telephone: 03 474 3433  
Email: [andrea.jones@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:andrea.jones@dcc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Andrea Jones  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 July 2015 5:02 p.m.  
**To:** 'Nicola Fallow'  
**Subject:** RE: electronic communication

Hi Nicola

Hope yesterday's celebrations for the Highlanders went well!

Here are responses from DCC Group Manager Corporate Services Sandy Graham. Here's a link to the standing orders too -

[http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/81341/Council-Standing-Orders.pdf](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/81341/Council-Standing-Orders.pdf)

1) Do councillors, during Council meetings, communicate electronically (ie, text, email etc) with other councillors or staff who are present at the meeting?

I can confirm that Councillors do sometimes text and/or email staff who are present during the meeting. You would need to ask Councillors directly if they communicate with each other during the meeting.

2) Are they permitted to do so under Standing Orders?

Standing Orders are currently being reviewed – LGNZ are reviewing the NZ Model Standing Orders – and we are holding off major changes to ours until the new model has been produced. As it currently stands however, use of cellphones for calls and/or messages is permitted with the leave of the Chairperson (SO 3.7.17).

3) Do councillors, during Council meetings, communicate electronically (ie, text, email etc) with people who are **not present at the meeting**?

I can't confirm who Councillors text and/or email during the meeting other than certain staff who are present. You would need to ask Councillors directly if they communicate with people who are not present.

4) Are they permitted to do so under Standing Orders?

As it currently stands however, use of cellphones for calls and/or messages is permitted with the leave of the Chairperson (SO 3.7.17).

5) Is there anything else you would like to say about this issue?

No.

Kind regards

Andrea Jones  
Communications Team Leader, Council Communications and Marketing  
Dunedin City Council

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**From:** Nicola Fallow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 July 2015 10:22 a.m.  
**To:** Andrea Jones  
**Subject:** Re: electronic communication

Hi Andrea,

Thanks again for letting me know you had passed my questions about texting and emailing etc during council meetings on to the governance team.

And that it was unlikely I would receive a response on Friday.

Here's a link to the story I wrote, in case it's helpful: Councils' electronic communication practices and policies patchwork <http://tiny.cc/7ge5zx>

I'm happy to update the story to include your response when I receive it.

Kind regards,  
Nicola Fallow  
[REDACTED]

On 3/07/2015, at 12:32 pm, Nicola Fallow [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Andrea,

Thanks for letting me know.

If you are able to get a response to me by 3:30pm today I will still be able to include it the story, if that helps.

Kind regards,  
Nicola Fallow

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On 3/07/2015, at 12:15 pm, Andrea Jones <[Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Andrea.Jones@dcc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hi Nicola

Thanks for your email. I have passed on your questions (below) to our governance team. It's unlikely we will be able to get back to you today, but we will be in touch when we have a response for you.

Good morning,

My name is Nicola Fallow and I'm a freelance journalist based in Invercargill.

I have a few questions I'd like ask about electronic communication during council meetings so could you please pass this email on to the relevant person?

Questions:

- 1) Do councillors, during Council meetings, communicate electronically (ie, text, email etc) with other councillors or staff who are present at the meeting?
- 2) Are they permitted to do so under Standing Orders?
- 3) Do councillors, during Council meetings, communicate electronically (ie, text, email etc) with people who are **not present at the meeting**?
- 4) Are they permitted to do so under Standing Orders?
- 5) Is there anything else you would like to say about this issue?

Also, if the Council is not going to be able to get a response to me by 5pm today could you please let me know as soon as possible? Thanks.

Kind regards  
Nicola

[REDACTED]

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Kind regards

Andrea Jones  
Communications Team Leader, Council Communications and  
Marketing  
Dunedin City Council

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