

**From:** Grace Ockwell  
**To:** [ejkerr@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ejkerr@ihug.co.nz)  
**Cc:** [Kristy Rusher](#); [Sandy Graham](#); [Laura McElhone](#)  
**Subject:** FW: LGOIMA Information Request  
**Date:** Friday, 25 September 2015 02:55:14 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)

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Dear Elizabeth,

I refer to your email of 3 September 2015 requesting various information about the South Dunedin stormwater pumping stations.

Your request has been considered under the provisions of LGOIMA and the following response is provided.

I have repeated your questions to give context to our response.

Question 1.

I would like to request the asset register entries (or database or other list) for all DCC-owned stormwater pumping stations that serve South Dunedin and which due to their physical location will have functioned or not during the flood in early June 2015.

DCC Response

There are two stormwater pumping stations serving the South Dunedin catchment. The Portobello pumping station and the smaller Tainui pumping station which is co-located with the Musselburgh wastewater pumping station. The "Musselburgh pumping station" refers to the wastewater pumping station that pumps to the Tahuna wastewater treatment plant.

Question 2.

A former DCC staff member was advised recently that one major reason for the flooding was that at least one of the Musselburgh pumping station pumps was not working. When questioned by this person Laura McElhone, group manager water and waste, denied there was even a stormwater pumping station at Musselburgh, then had to agree that there was.

Why did Laura McElhone (group manager) not know that there was a stormwater pumping station at Musselburgh, given the length of time she had been employed by DCC (since April 2008)?

DCC Response:

In responding to this request the Group Manager Water and Waste, Dr Laura McElhone assumes that you are referring to a conversation that she had with a former Dunedin City Council staff member on 4 June 2015. During that conversation the former DCC staff member seemed to be suggesting that foul sewage was pumped from the Musselburgh pumping station to Portobello and Dr McElhone assured him that this was not the case. During a later conversation with the former DCC staff member it became apparent that Dr McElhone and he had been talking at cross purposes; they then confirmed that they both had the same understanding of the configuration of the network. (i.e. the Tainui stormwater pumping station pumps stormwater to Portobello).

Question 3

Is it correct that the former DCC staff member, now member of the public, has recently made five requests to DCC seeking the pump logs for Musselburgh stormwater pumping station, to confirm if the pumps were working or not – presumably before, during and after the flood at South Dunedin in early June 2015? And that DCC refused to release the logs?

DCC Response

No. It is not correct that five requests were made to the DCC for this information.

Question 4

Who made the five requests mentioned at 3.? And were these treated as LGOIMA requests?

Question 5.

On what grounds is DCC refusing to release the pump logs?

DCC Responses to Questions 4 and 5:

- The name of the requestor is withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a) of LGOIMA in order to protect their privacy.

The request for information was processed by Water and Waste Services staff. The information requested was not provided as the data had not been verified.

Please note that the questions raised by the former DCC staff member are comprehensively addressed in a report scheduled to be presented in public at the next meeting of either the Infrastructure Service Committee on 13 October 2015 or the next meeting of Council on 27 October 2015.

With regard to the comment on the public availability of infrastructure information, the Council's Integrated Management Plans are the best source of this information and are available on our website and provide detailed information on the Council's stormwater infrastructure.

You can view these plans here: [Catchment management - Dunedin City Council](#)

Yours sincerely,

Grace Ockwell  
**Governance Support Officer**  
Civic and Legal

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 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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**From:** Elizabeth Kerr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 September 2015 10:55 p.m.  
**To:** Sandy Graham  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Kerr; Grace Ockwell; Laura McElhone; editor@odt.co.nz  
**Subject:** LGOIMA Information Request

Dear Sandy

Noting last year's DCC media release [my highlighting]:

City Care Contract Starts Today (28.2.14)

**DCC staff will still be responsible for looking after treatment plants, pumping stations and water reservoirs.**

The contract with City Care is expected to deliver annual savings of at least \$350,000. As well as cost savings, the contract will deliver other considerable benefits. These include more assessment of sewer pipe condition through the dedicated use of specialist equipment, which will enable better renewal planning. **It will also allow more wastewater and stormwater sewers to be cleaned regularly, which will reduce the risk of flooding, as well as reducing the amount of sediment reaching the Otago Harbour.**

<http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news/february-2014/city-care-contract-starts-today>

And noting this information at the DCC website:

Andersons Bay Water Main Renewal

<http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects/andersons-bay-water-main-renewal>

We are about to begin the second stage of water, wastewater and stormwater pipeline renewal work in the Andersons Bay and Musselburgh areas.

June 2015 Update:.....

<http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects/andersons-bay-water-main-renewal/project-timelines>

<http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects/andersons-bay-water-main-renewal/background-and-the-new-pipes>

My requests for information are:

1.

I would like to request the asset register entries (or database or other list) for all DCC-owned stormwater pumping stations that serve South Dunedin and which due to their physical location will have functioned or not during the flood in early June 2015.

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2.

A former DCC staff member was advised recently that one major reason for the flooding was that at least one of the Musselburgh pumping station pumps was not working. When questioned by this person Laura McElhone, group manager water and waste, denied there was even a stormwater pumping station at Musselburgh, then had to agree that there was.

Why did Laura McElhone (group manager) not know that there was a stormwater pumping station at Musselburgh, given the length of time she had been employed by DCC (since April 2008)?

3.

Is it correct that the former DCC staff member, now member of the public, has recently made five requests to DCC seeking the pump logs for Musselburgh stormwater pumping station, to confirm if the pumps were working or not – presumably before, during and after the flood at South Dunedin in early June 2015? And that DCC refused to release the logs?

4.

Who made the five requests mentioned at 3.? And were these treated as LGOIMA requests?

5.

On what grounds is DCC refusing to release the pump logs?

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Lastly, an observation.

I note the DCC Draft Infrastructure Strategy (released for consultation 24 March 2015) does not include a list of stormwater pumping stations (amongst other infrastructure assets not accounted for in the document).

I have no wish to start a policy/strategy 'content' debate here but an asset register (existing '3 waters' assets, where known) should be available online for public scrutiny alongside or as part of (appendices) the Infrastructure Strategy. The Draft Strategy appears to be deficient in many respects although, of course, this is not the place to argue it.

[http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/488245/Infrastructure-Strategy.pdf](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/488245/Infrastructure-Strategy.pdf)

I look forward to reply.

Kind regards, Elizabeth

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Elizabeth Kerr

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[REDACTED]  
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