

From: Lynne Adamson
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Local Government Official Information request - 544089
Date: Tuesday, 31 May 2016 08:45:00 a.m.
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[Correspondence - Joel McMacmanus.pdf](#)

Dear Joel

I refer to your request for information dated 3 May 2016 for any correspondence or advice given to DCC returning officer Pam Jordan or any other relevant party regarding the decision to scrap the voting booth on Otago University campus at the 2013 local body election.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information and Meetings Act (1987) and I would like to advise that the information you have requested is provided in the attached document. To protect personal privacy under Section 7(2)(a) of the Act, the email addresses; phone numbers and addresses have been redacted.

In addition to the three responses to the email (as attached), the Electoral Officer phoned and obtained verbal comments from several other electoral officers around the country, in particular those in cities with universities.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards

Lynne

Lynne Adamson
Governance Support Officer
Dunedin City Council

50 The Octagon, Dunedin; P O Box 5045, Moray Place, Dunedin 9058, New Zealand
Telephone: 03 477 4000; DDI: 03 474 3431; Fax: 03 474 3488
Email: Lynne.Adamson@dcc.govt.nz



 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Joel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 May 2016 11:08 a.m.
To: officialinformation@dcc.govt.nz
Subject: Local Government Official Information request - 544089

Joel has submitted a LGOIMA request - 544089.

Below are the details of the request

Request details:

I would like to request any correspondence or advice given to DCC returning officer Pam Jordan or any other relevant party regarding the decision to scrap the voting booth on Otago University campus at the 2013 local body election

File attachment

No file uploaded

Name

Joel MacManus

Email address

[REDACTED]

Mailing address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Pam Jordan

From: Pam Jordan
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 03:10 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Rock or the Hard Place?

Hi folks

I appreciate everyone is frantic this week but I have a slight quandary that I would appreciate your views on - just a yes or no answer when you have read it (if you read it) would suffice.

Some weeks ago we received a request from the President of the Otago University Students' Association to place a special voting booth at the University to try to encourage more students to vote, given the traditionally exceptionally low rates of voting of the student population. At the same time they were also trying to encourage more enrolments in conjunction with the local RoE. For the last few elections we have only had a central special voting booth as the ones at service centres/libraries that we used to have for the first few elections following amalgamation took so few votes they weren't worth the trouble. We have never had one at the University although we had idly chatted about it in the past. Anyway, we thought this was a reasonable request and undertook to consider having a booth for the last week of voting, perhaps from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm each day, to see how it went.

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I think now that he has basically issued an ultimatum, so I am not accused of influencing a potential candidate's decision whether to stand, and that so he can make his decision unencumbered by any outside factors, I have no other option but to decline the special voting booth at the University even if he decides in the end not to stand, because he could say if someone asked him why his nomination didn't eventuate, that he didn't stand so that I would provide the booth. I am trying to look at the story as it might play out on the front page of the ODT. I do not believe that students would be "disenfranchised" because we are merely reverting to the status quo. While it would be good to get more students voting I think that the disadvantages of this situation outweigh the advantages.

Am I doing the right thing?

Also is anyone aware of any other councils that have on-campus special voting booths? I managed to catch up with John Annabel on Friday as I thought they might be the likeliest option as Massey is self-contained on the edge of town but he said they don't.

Your views would be welcomed.

All the best
Pam
DDI 03 474 3428

Pam Jordan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 07:09 p.m.
To: Pam Jordan
Subject: RE: The Rock or the Hard Place?

Hi Pam

I feel you should delay making a decision. There are a number of reasons why you cannot make an immediate decision. Aside from being busy, there are the logistics of having a voting booth at the University. Is there a suitable location, what hours, can it be staffed etc. You cannot be expected to make a hasty decision.

[REDACTED]

From: Pam Jordan [pjordan@dcc.govt.nz]

Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 3:09 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: The Rock or the Hard Place?

Hi folks

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Two or three weeks ago the ODT reported in a story about potential candidates that the President of the OUSA was thinking of standing for the Council - or perhaps the national NZUSA body. This of course immediately rang alarm bells in regard to the special voting booth as the last thing I wanted was for other candidates to accuse me of providing one candidate with his own personal polling booth (even though there are probably a couple of other candidates that such a booth might benefit as well) no matter how legitimately the original request was made in the capacity of his role as President, and how desirable it would be to get this sector voting. The 11 member Central Ward vote was very close last time for the last few candidates elected and there are several existing Councillors standing down this time around and a couple of hundred first preference special votes might make all the difference. Anyway, I thought I'd leave the decision at that stage and decide if and when the nomination arrived.

However, on Friday I received a call from him and during the course of the conversation he asked about the special polling booth. I said that we might have to revisit this decision given that he had announced his candidacy, for the reason explained above. He said that he hadn't announced his candidacy and that he hadn't made a final decision,

and if him standing meant "disenfranchising students" by me making the decision not to provide the polling booth he wouldn't stand, however he wanted to know my final decision early this week so he could decide.

I think now that he has basically issued an ultimatum, so I am not accused of influencing a potential candidate's decision whether to stand, and that so he can make his decision unencumbered by any outside factors, I have no other option but to decline the special voting booth at the University even if he decides in the end not to stand, because he could say if someone asked him why his nomination didn't eventuate, that he didn't stand so that I would provide the booth. I am trying to look at the story as it might play out on the front page of the ODT. I do not believe that students would be "disenfranchised" because we are merely reverting to the status quo. While it would be good to get more students voting I think that the disadvantages of this situation outweigh the advantages.

Am I doing the right thing?

Also is anyone aware of any other councils that have on-campus special voting booths? I managed to catch up with [REDACTED] on Friday as I thought they might be the likeliest option as Massey is self-contained on the edge of town but he said they don't.

Your views would be welcomed.

All the best
Pam
DDI 03 474 3428

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For more information about New Plymouth District Council, visit our website at www.newplymouthnz.com

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For more information visit <http://smxemail.com>

Pam Jordan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 04:36 p.m.
To: Pam Jordan; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The Rock or the Hard Place?

Hmm, thats an interesting one Pam.

My view would be a strong no, but to kick for touch and tell him you are too busy to consider it this week (on account of being too busy with close or noms, or perhaps having to consult wider, or some suitable fob off that bides you time), then politely decline once nominations close. That way he cant use you as a reason to stand one way or the other. Id do nothing this week, wait for him to call you, then say terribly sorry Im too busy to give it the full attention this week.

My personal view is that you shouldnt provide a specials booth on campus, just stick to the usual practice at the council office. Doing so only lends itself to the possibility of political shenanigans in a place that is well know for it.

[REDACTED]

From: Pam Jordan [mailto:pjordan@dcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 3:10 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Rock or the Hard Place?

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All the best

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DDI 03 474 3428

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Pam Jordan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 05:03 p.m.
To: Pam Jordan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The Rock or the Hard Place?

Hi Pam
I think [REDACTED] is looking at providing a special voting option on campus for half a day only in first week of voting period.
Might pay to compare notes with [REDACTED]
Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 4:36 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The Rock or the Hard Place?

Hmm, thats an interesting one Pam.

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[REDACTED]

From: Pam Jordan [mailto:pjordan@dcc.govt.nz]
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 3:10 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Rock or the Hard Place?

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Pam Jordan

From: Pam Jordan
Sent: Monday, 12 August 2013 01:03 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: The Rock or the Hard Place?

Hi folks

He has now announced his candidacy in today's ODT so that solves one problem (no paperwork yet of course). So I think it will probably be a No for the booth.

Thanks for your responses to the earlier email and best wishes for this week

All the best
Pam

From: Pam Jordan
Sent: Sunday, 11 August 2013 3:10 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: The Rock or the Hard Place?

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