

**From:** Clare Sullivan  
**To:** ["Nikki.Preston@nzme.co.nz"](mailto:Nikki.Preston@nzme.co.nz)  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA request - code of conduct complaints  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 November 2020 12:17:00 p.m.

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Dear Nikki,

I write in response to your LGOIMA request below. I apologise for the delay.

You requested "A list of elected members, since they were elected in 2019, who have had formal complaints made about them, the date of the complaint, an explanation of what the complaint was about, who made the complaint and what action was taken. Please also provide who undertook the investigation and what the cost to council was?"

Please find below a table of the information you requested. I have provided a copy of the Council's Code of Conduct in the following link.

[https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/58102/Code-of-Conduct-Oct-2019.pdf](https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/58102/Code-of-Conduct-Oct-2019.pdf)

The explanation of the complaints is taken from the criteria in the code as is the outcome. Under the Council's Code of Conduct, complaints can only be made by elected members or the chief executive (on behalf of staff or members of the public).

Some information relating to the three complaints that were found to be non-material has been withheld pursuant to section 7(2)(a) of LGOIMA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Complaint against Elected member	Date of complaint	Who made by	Explanation	Investigator	Outcome of investigation	Action taken	Cost (including GST)
Cr Vandervis	Sept 19	CEO	Relationships with staff	David Benham	Material	Written censure; Judicial Review	\$14,148 (including legal fees of \$11,004)
Elected member	Nov 19	Elected member	Disclosure of information	Steph Dyhrberg	Non material	No action taken	\$12,003
Elected member	May 20	CEO	Online communication	Bruce Robertson	Non material	No action taken	Combined total of \$3,668
Elected member	June 20	CEO	Online communication	Bruce Robertson	Non material	No action taken	
Cr Benson-Pope	August 20	Cr Radich	Relationships between members	Steve McDowell	Complaint without substance	No action required	\$1,202
Cr Vandervis	July 20	Cr Garey Cr Laufiso Cr Walker	Relationships between members	Steph Dyhrberg	Material	Apology requested, or removal from two appointments	\$25,841

The total cost is \$56,862.

As certain information requested has been withheld, I advise that you have the right to have this decision reviewed by the Office of the Ombudsman (0800 802602) or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

If you have any further questions please contact me on 021 342 164.

Regards

Clare Sullivan  
Team Leader Civic

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**From:** Nikki Preston <Nikki.Preston@nzme.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 October 2020 1:35 p.m.  
**To:** Nikki Preston <Nikki.Preston@nzme.co.nz>  
**Subject:** LGOIMA request - code of conduct complaints

Hi

Could I please be provided with the following under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act:

A list of elected members, since they were elected in 2019, who have had formal complaints made about them, the date of the complaint, an explanation of what the complaint was about, who made the complaint and what action was taken. Please also provide who undertook the investigation and what the cost to council was?

A formal complaint refers to a complaint made under the code of conduct complaints process.

I calculate the 20 working day period to be Tuesday 10 November 2020

If you require any clarification please don't hesitate to contact me before then.

Kind regards

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New Zealand Herald  
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