

**From:** Sharon Bodeker  
**To:** [Chris Morris](#)  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA - abusive behaviour  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 June 2019 05:16:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Dear Chris

I am writing in response to your two LGOIMA request below.

***1. How many reports or complaints of verbally abusive or otherwise inappropriate behaviour by Cr Vandervis towards council staff have been brought to the attention of the DCC's chief executive?***

***2. How many of those reports/complaints involve female staff?***

***3. What sorts of behaviour are alleged?***

With respect to the questions above, your request has been declined because we wish to protect the privacy of Cr Vandervis and those who have reported their complaint or concern. Therefore pursuant to section 7(2)(a) of LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of natural persons, this information is being withheld. This information is also being withheld under section 7(c)(i) of LGOIMA, to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under any enactment, where the making available of the information would likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

***4. Have any reports/complaints resulted in any code of conduct processes, formal investigations or any other action? If so, what outcome has there been?***

Two complaints received were the subject of a formal Code of Conduct hearing held in 2015. The outcome of that process was that Cr Vandervis was censured and stripped of his voting rights at Council and Committee meetings for two months. This was publicly notified and reported on. Information about any other actions that may have been taken is being withheld to protect the privacy of the councillor and the complainants, pursuant to section 7(2)(a) and section 7(c)(i) of LGOIMA.

***5. What steps, if any, is the council taking to ensure staff, particularly female staff, feel safe?***

Steps taken to ensure staff feel safe include the following:

- The introduction of the email quarantine policy.
- General managers are now required to sit with staff when presenting at Council and Committee meetings.
- Councillors have been provided with a list of staff that they may ask questions of, being the executive leadership team, group managers and the governance support team.
- Staff are able to report their concerns and complaints in a confidential database, ensuring their privacy is protected.
- The default staff signatures on reports have been changed to be senior managers. Non-management staff are not identified except by request from them.

***6. Has information about staff complaints has been released to Cr Vandervis?***

Your request has been declined because we wish to protect the privacy of Cr Vandervis, pursuant to section 7(2)(a) of LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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 802 602) or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Kind regards

Sharon Bodeker

**TEAM LEADER CIVIC**

**P** 03 477 4000 | **DD** 03 474 3231 | **M** 021 178 5337 | **E** [sharon.bodeker@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:sharon.bodeker@dcc.govt.nz)

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)

---

**From:** Chris Morris

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 June 2019 3:22 p.m.

**To:** Sharon Bodeker <Sharon.Bodeker@dcc.govt.nz>

**Cc:** Sandy Graham <Sandy.Graham@dcc.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Re: LGOIMA - abusive behaviour

Hi Sharon,

I understand you're drafting something on this for release today. Can I ask that your response also address, even just in brief, whether information about staff complaints has been released to Cr Vandervis?

Cheers

Chris.



On 02/05/2019 5:21 p.m., Chris Morris wrote:

Hi,

As a follow-up to today's allegations by Mayor Dave Cull of verbally abusive behaviour by Cr Lee Vandervis towards female council staff, I would like answers to the following under the terms of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:

1. How many reports or complaints of verbally abusive or otherwise inappropriate behaviour by Cr Vandervis towards council staff have been brought to the attention of the DCC's chief executive?
2. How many of those reports/complaints involve female staff?
3. What sorts of behaviour are alleged?
4. Have any reports/complaints resulted in any code of conduct processes, formal investigations or any other action? If so, what outcome has there been?
5. What steps, if any, is the council taking to ensure staff, particularly female staff, feel safe?

Many thanks,

Chris.

--

