



Ref: s.7(2)(a) -  
t t th

Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street  
PO Box 645, Nelson 7040, New Zealand

1 September 2021

P (03) 546 0200  
E LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz  
[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

s.7(2)(a) -  
protect the  
privacy of  
natural  
persons

Dear s.7(2)  
( )

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR EMAILS 11-13 MARCH 2021**

I refer to your official information request dated 16 August 2021:

Copies of all emails, sent by, or copied from, sitting NCC Councillors to Mayor Reese from 11 March 2021 until 13 March 2021 inclusive and concerning the Tim Skinner/Extinction Rebellion incident.

The information you requested is enclosed.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

**Pat Dougherty**  
Chief Executive

Encl: PDF document – emails pertinent to request

Internal Document ID: A2732674

## **Devorah Nicuarta-Smith**

---

**From:** Rachel Reese  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 March 2021 7:58 am  
**To:** Councillors  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty; Alec Louverdis  
**Subject:** Protest at Civic House - please don't come in our engage

Morena Councillors

Alec has advised that people are chained to entrances at Civic House. The issue seems to relate to bees. Extinction Rebellion perhaps.

Alec has spoken with police and the request is that no elected members approach Civic House at this stage and that you do not engage with protesters via phone calls, emails, social media.

Staff will update when they have more information. For health and safety reasons exits need to be clear.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

Sent from my iPad

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Tim Skinner  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 March 2021 8:08 am  
**To:** Councillors; Rachel Reese  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty; Alec Louverdis  
**Subject:** Re: Protest at Civic House - please don't come in our engage

Are you serious.  
Maybe we should offer them some Almond Milk refreshments.

Kind regards  
Tim

Tim Skinner – Nelson City Councillor  
Ph (03) 5488879  
Cell 021668733  
Email: [tim.skinner@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:tim.skinner@ncc.govt.nz)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/votetimskinner](https://www.facebook.com/votetimskinner)

110 Trafalgar St  
PO Box 645 Nelson 7040

---

**From:** Rachel Reese <[mayor@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:58:29 AM  
**To:** Councillors <[Councillors@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:Councillors@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty <[pat.dougherty@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:pat.dougherty@ncc.govt.nz)>; Alec Louverdis <[alec.louverdis@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:alec.louverdis@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Protest at Civic House - please don't come in our engage

Morena Councillors

Alec has advised that people are chained to entrances at Civic House. The issue seems to relate to bees. Extinction Rebellion perhaps.

Alec has spoken with police and the request is that no elected members approach Civic House at this stage and that you do not engage with protesters via phone calls, emails, social media.

Staff will update when they have more information. For health and safety reasons exits need to be clear.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

Sent from my iPad

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Kate Fulton  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 March 2021 9:34 am  
**To:** Tim Skinner  
**Cc:** Councillors; Rachel Reese; Pat Dougherty; Alec Louverdis  
**Subject:** Re: Protest at Civic House - please don't come in our engage

Don't you think it's maybe time you cut the almond milk jokes Cr Skinner?

They've been going on for years and are deliberately intended to wind me up and humiliate.

They undermine the values and identity of climate, animal rights, planetary diet and nutrition advocates.

Disparagement humour is often used by people who are prejudiced to get away with making discriminatory comments and then claim they were just joking - thus trivialising the effect.

In light of your email yesterday you might like to reflect on your own words, how you use them, and consequential effect afterwards.

Kind regards

Kate

Sent from my iPhone

On 11/03/2021, at 8:08 AM, Tim Skinner <Tim.Skinner@ncc.govt.nz> wrote:

Are you serious.  
Maybe we should offer them some Almond Milk refreshments.

Kind regards  
Tim

Tim Skinner – Nelson City Councillor  
Ph (03) 5488879  
Cell 021668733  
Email: [tim.skinner@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:tim.skinner@ncc.govt.nz)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/votetimskinner](https://www.facebook.com/votetimskinner)

110 Trafalgar St  
PO Box 645 Nelson 7040

---

**From:** Rachel Reese <mayor@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:58:29 AM  
**To:** Councillors <Councillors@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty <pat.dougherty@ncc.govt.nz>; Alec Louverdis <alec.louverdis@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Protest at Civic House - please don't come in our engage

Morena Councillors

Alec has advised that people are chained to entrances at Civic House. The issue seems to relate to bees. Extinction Rebellion perhaps.

Alec has spoken with police and the request is that no elected members approach Civic House at this stage and that you do not engage with protesters via phone calls, emails, social media.

Staff will update when they have more information. For health and safety reasons exits need to be clear.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

Sent from my iPad

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Rachel Sanson  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 March 2021 9:08 pm  
**To:** Pat Dougherty  
**Cc:** Malcolm Hughes; Councillors  
**Subject:** Investigation of incident

Kia ora Pat

I have read, with concern, the article in the Nelson Mail this evening ([linked here](#)), regarding an incident involving Councillor Skinner, in which an elderly woman (in her 70s I believe), was allegedly “shoulder-charged”.

I am aware there is a security camera in the foyer covering that entrance and that there is likely to be video footage of the incident.

Could you please outline for elected members, what the process is around having that footage viewed by elected members, and appropriate action taken.

Ngā mihi,  
Rachel

**Rachel Sanson**  
[EHF Fellow](#), [CMinstD](#), [LinkedIn](#)  
Councillor | Kaikaunihera

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
M 021 106 5043  
[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Kate Fulton  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 March 2021 11:41 pm  
**To:** Rachel Sanson  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty; Malcolm Hughes; Councillors  
**Subject:** Re: Investigation of incident

Further to Rachel's email below,

I'm also concerned that Cr Skinner would have received a text, probably received phone calls and read the Mayor's email at 8am advising us to stay at home (to which he replied) and then still went to Civic House and tried to push through pretending he had a meeting to get to.

There was a process set in place to de-escalate, be respectful and keep everyone - protestors, staff and councillors safe. Not only has he ignored the advice thus undermining the process, but he's also deliberately interrupted, used "power over" verbal and body language and physical tactics to try to intimidate the protestors and their right to protest.

Sent from my iPhone

On 11/03/2021, at 9:07 PM, Rachel Sanson <rachel.sanson@ncc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Pat

I have read, with concern, the article in the Nelson Mail this evening ([linked here](#)), regarding an incident involving Councillor Skinner, in which an elderly woman (in her 70s I believe), was allegedly "shoulder-charged".

I am aware there is a security camera in the foyer covering that entrance and that there is likely to be video footage of the incident.

Could you please outline for elected members, what the process is around having that footage viewed by elected members, and appropriate action taken.

Ngā mihi,  
Rachel

**Rachel Sanson**  
[EHF Fellow](#), [CMinstD](#), [LinkedIn](#)  
Councillor | Kaikaunihera

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
M 021 106 5043  
[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Gaile Noonan  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 7:08 am  
**To:** Rachel Sanson; Kate Fulton  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty; Malcolm Hughes; Councillors  
**Subject:** Re: Investigation of incident

Morena, please, can we leave this to the people who need to be involved. As discussed yesterday, we have a focus on getting a quality LTP out to the public. I know this is something we all want.

This matter is not something we can do anything about. If we can, we will probably be approached personally to assist.

Thankyou.

Gaile

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

---

**From:** Kate Fulton <Kate.Fulton@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:40:34 PM  
**To:** Rachel Sanson <rachel.sanson@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty <pat.dougherty@ncc.govt.nz>; Malcolm Hughes <malcolm.hughes@ncc.govt.nz>; Councillors <Councillors@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Investigation of incident

Further to Rachel's email below,

I'm also concerned that Cr Skinner would have received a text, probably received phone calls and read the Mayor's email at 8am advising us to stay at home (to which he replied) and then still went to Civic House and tried to push through pretending he had a meeting to get to.

There was a process set in place to de-escalate, be respectful and keep everyone - protestors, staff and councillors safe. Not only has he ignored the advice thus undermining the process, but he's also deliberately interrupted, used "power over" verbal and body language and physical tactics to try to intimidate the protestors and their right to protest.

Sent from my iPhone

On 11/03/2021, at 9:07 PM, Rachel Sanson <rachel.sanson@ncc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Pat

I have read, with concern, the article in the Nelson Mail this evening ([linked here](#)), regarding an incident involving Councillor Skinner, in which an elderly woman (in her 70s I believe), was allegedly "shoulder-charged".

I am aware there is a security camera in the foyer covering that entrance and that there is likely to be video footage of the incident.

Could you please outline for elected members, what the process is around having that footage viewed by elected members, and appropriate action taken.

Ngā mihi,  
Rachel

**Rachel Sanson**

[EHF Fellow](#), [CMinstD](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Councillor | Kaikaunihera

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

M 021 106 5043

[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Rachel Reese  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 8:01 am  
**To:** Kate Fulton  
**Subject:** Re: Investigation of incident

Morena Kate

Yesterday I met with councillors to ask that these emails stop. You were not there so I will give you the benefit of the doubt.

If you have an issue with another councillor's conduct come and see me or phone me. We have a clearly set out process for addressing these matters.

Do not send emails or take to social media.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Kate Fulton <Kate.Fulton@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:40:34 PM  
**To:** Rachel Sanson <rachel.sanson@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty <pat.dougherty@ncc.govt.nz>; Malcolm Hughes <malcolm.hughes@ncc.govt.nz>; Councillors <Councillors@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Investigation of incident

Further to Rachel's email below,

I'm also concerned that Cr Skinner would have received a text, probably received phone calls and read the Mayor's email at 8am advising us to stay at home (to which he replied) and then still went to Civic House and tried to push through pretending he had a meeting to get to.

There was a process set in place to de-escalate, be respectful and keep everyone - protestors, staff and councillors safe. Not only has he ignored the advice thus undermining the process, but he's also deliberately interrupted, used "power over" verbal and body language and physical tactics to try to intimidate the protestors and their right to protest.

Sent from my iPhone

On 11/03/2021, at 9:07 PM, Rachel Sanson <rachel.sanson@ncc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Pat

I have read, with concern, the article in the Nelson Mail this evening ([linked here](#)), regarding an incident involving Councillor Skinner, in which an elderly woman (in her 70s I believe), was allegedly "shoulder-charged".

I am aware there is a security camera in the foyer covering that entrance and that there is likely to be video footage of the incident.

Could you please outline for elected members, what the process is around having that footage viewed by elected members, and appropriate action taken.

Ngā mihi,  
Rachel

**Rachel Sanson**

[EHF Fellow](#), [CMinstD](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Councillor | Kaikaunihera

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

M 021 106 5043

[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Rachel Reese  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 8:10 am  
**To:** Councillors  
**Subject:** Email and social media costs

Morena Councillors

Yesterday I met with you and asked very specifically for you not to take to email or social media if you had an issue with one of your colleagues conduct.

You were asked to come and see me or phone me. Or to contact Pat as an alternative. We have a clear process to address these matters.

Sending group emails and taking to social media is not appropriate.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Rachel Reese  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 8:19 am  
**To:** Pete Rainey  
**Subject:** Re: Email and social media costs

Morena Pete

Yes you can. I will sort out some time this afternoon. Can you please stop the group emails.

Rachel

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Pete Rainey <pete.rainey@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2021 8:15:39 AM  
**To:** Rachel Reese <mayor@ncc.govt.nz>; Councillors <Councillors@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Email and social media costs

Thanks Rachel

I'd like to meet with you today regarding this matter

Pete Rainey

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Rachel Reese <mayor@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2021 8:09:45 AM  
**To:** Councillors <Councillors@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Email and social media costs

Morena Councillors

Yesterday I met with you and asked very specifically for you not to take to email or social media if you had an issue with one of your colleagues conduct.

You were asked to come and see me or phone me. Or to contact Pat as an alternative. We have a clear process to address these matters.

Sending group emails and taking to social media is not appropriate.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Rachel Reese  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 9:09 am  
**To:** Matt Lawrey  
**Subject:** RE: Email and social media costs

Morena Matt

Yes I can expect that because you have a policy to follow if you have concerns about conduct. In addition this matter has been referred to the police.

Rachel

---

**From:** Matt Lawrey  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 8:57 am  
**To:** Rachel Reese <[mayor@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@ncc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: Email and social media costs

Morena Rachel,

As I understood it, yesterday we were talking about Tim's email, the Pride Crossing, Yvonne's reaction to it, etc.

Most of us had no idea Tim had also been allegedly shoulder charging little old ladies.

You can't expect everyone to keep quiet about things like that.

Ngā mihi,

Matt

Sent from my iPhone

On 12/03/2021, at 8:09 AM, Rachel Reese <[mayor@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@ncc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Morena Councillors

Yesterday I met with you and asked very specifically for you not to take to email or social media if you had an issue with one of your colleagues conduct.

You were asked to come and see me or phone me. Or to contact Pat as an alternative. We have a clear process to address these matters.

Sending group emails and taking to social media is not appropriate.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## **Devorah Nicuarta-Smith**

---

**From:** Rachel Reese  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 4:56 pm  
**To:** Councillors  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty  
**Subject:** Alleged incident at Civic House yesterday - update

Kia Ora Councillors

Further to my email this morning asking you to refrain from sending emails and making social media posts on this matter I want to reconfirm my advice to you in that regard. It was agreed on Thursday that if there was any concern with a fellow councillor's conduct that I would make myself available to hear your concerns as opposed to the above. One councillor has taken up that offer and I appreciate that.

As an update, I have provided a response to the Nelson Mail as the Mayor. I have advised that I am reviewing the incident from a Council perspective. If this is a Police matter or likely to be then I can make no further comment at this time on any alleged assault. I have confirmed the advice I gave to elected members yesterday morning by email prior to the meeting, not to approach Civic House or engage with protestors. I have confirmed that I was comfortable with the way the Chief Executive and Police handled the matter and the way the protestors had cooperated. The media team were asked to provide a copy of the Code of Conduct which they have done. I have emphasized to the media that if elected members are concerned about the conduct of one of their colleagues then the Code of Conduct sets out the process to do this.

To be very clear that the Code of Conduct does not provide for elected members to undertake their own inquisitorial processes.

There has been a request to view the CCTV footage and I confirm that this is a matter for the Chief Executive and there are Privacy Act matters that must be taken into account. However, I can assure you that the footage will be saved.

My strong advice to you all is to allow a proper process to occur whether that is via the Police or our own Council processes.

Nga mihi  
Rachel

## Devorah Nicuarta-Smith

---

**From:** Rachel Sanson  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 6:43 pm  
**To:** Rachel Reese; Councillors  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty  
**Subject:** Re: Alleged incident at Civic House yesterday - update

Kia ora Rachel

Thank you for this update - it is appreciated. I don't think any elected members, myself included, are looking to undertake their own inquisitorial process, but simply seeking reassurance that there is a due process in this kind of situation, and it is being followed - which you have now given.

Ngā mihi,  
Rachel

**Rachel Sanson**  
[EHF Fellow](#), [CMinstD](#), [LinkedIn](#)  
Councillor | Kaikaunihera

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū  
M 021 106 5043  
[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

---

**From:** Rachel Reese <mayor@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 4:55 PM  
**To:** Councillors <Councillors@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Pat Dougherty <pat.dougherty@ncc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Alleged incident at Civic House yesterday - update

Kia Ora Councillors

Further to my email this morning asking you to refrain from sending emails and making social media posts on this matter I want to reconfirm my advice to you in that regard. It was agreed on Thursday that if there was any concern with a fellow councillor's conduct that I would make myself available to hear your concerns as opposed to the above. One councillor has taken up that offer and I appreciate that.

As an update, I have provided a response to the Nelson Mail as the Mayor. I have advised that I am reviewing the incident from a Council perspective. If this is a Police matter or likely to be then I can make no further comment at this time on any alleged assault. I have confirmed the advice I gave to elected members yesterday morning by email prior to the meeting, not to approach Civic House or engage with protestors. I have confirmed that I was comfortable with the way the Chief Executive and Police handled the matter and the way the protestors had cooperated. The media team were asked to provide a copy of the Code of Conduct which they have done. I have emphasized to the media that if elected members are concerned about the conduct of one of their colleagues then the Code of Conduct sets out the process to do this.

To be very clear that the Code of Conduct does not provide for elected members to undertake their own inquisitorial processes.

There has been a request to view the CCTV footage and I confirm that this is a matter for the Chief Executive and there are Privacy Act matters that must be taken into account. However, I can assure you that the footage will be saved.

My strong advice to you all is to allow a proper process to occur whether that is via the Police or our own Council processes.

Nga mihi  
Rachel