



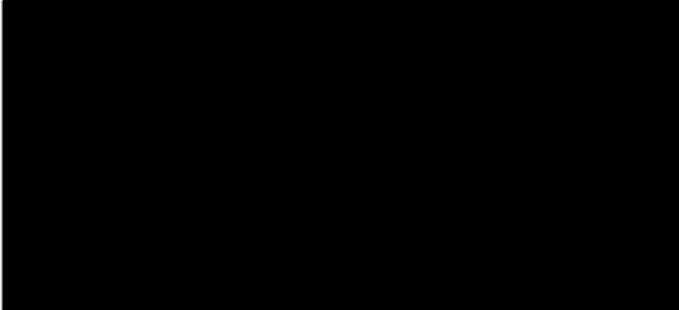
Ref: [REDACTED]

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4 November 2025



OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE VIDEO INFORMATION

I refer to your official information request dated 9 October 2025:

"Could I please have all easily retrievable information on the video council produced for candidates in the 2025 election, specifically,

- the cost to produce all the videos, including all officer hours,*
- how this decision was made, eg by elected reps or at admin level,*
- who was involved in this decision making process,*
- all internal memos, emails etc with admin staff, and any correspondence on this issue with outside parties that does not breach confidentiality, if any correspondence is not released because of privacy concerns/ confidentiality could you please include who this correspondence was with and how many emails, memos etc are withheld."*

Preparing candidate videos is an election project activity undertaken by a variety of councils in previous elections and recommended by election services providers. When undertaken in a way that provides equal opportunity for all candidates to participate, video interviews can provide the voting public with a broader sense of the people standing for election than is the case from the still photo and 150 word statement that may be provided by candidates for inclusion in the election information booklet.

Provision of the opportunity for Nelson City Council candidates to participate in video interviews this election was agreed by officers responsible within the election project. The process for the videos was carefully developed to ensure equal access and presentation for all candidates; not all candidates chose to participate but all had the chance to. Feedback from candidates and the community to date has been universally positive.

The video filming and production activities were resourced internally. Council estimates that the full process of video preparation took 66.5 hours of staff time in total. As allocating a

specific cost to this requires confidential salary information, we decline to provide a financial cost under section 7(2)(c) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence. We do not believe the public interest would outweigh this decision.

The election project - including consideration then planning for candidate videos - has been underway for many months, with extensive communication and documentation of many forms involved as is typical for a project of this size. This being the case, and in light of the current resourcing demands on staff who would usually collate and assess relevant information for the final part of this request, Council must decline the part of your request for all memos, emails and correspondence related to candidate videos under section 17(f) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 – that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Smith' with a stylized flourish.

Devorah Nícuarta-Smith
Manager Governance and Support Services