



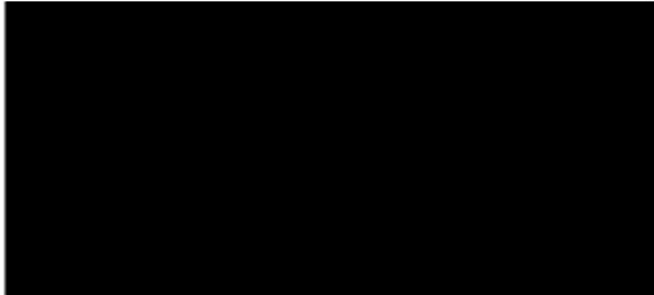
Ref: [REDACTED]

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

P (03) 546 0200

E LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz
nelson.govt.nz

12 December 2024



OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR PUBLIC FORUM INVITEE INFORMATION

I refer to your official information request dated 9 December 2024:

"1) How and when was the decision made to include non-Nelson residents, namely the two MoH presenters (Dr Richard Jaine, Professor John Eastwood), to be part of the Nelson Public Forum presentation on Fluoride on 5 Dec? Which councillors were at that meeting when that decision was made? Please provide access to the minutes of that meeting when that decision was made.

2) Did NCC pay or contribute to the costs of bringing the two MoH presenters...to the Public forum for the Fluoride presentation on Thursday 5 December? If yes, What was the total cost including accommodation, food, flights? If yes, why wasn't Clean Water Coalition offered the same opportunity? If no, who funded them to present at the public forum?

3) The NCC Public Forum is for Nelson citizens to present concerns and issues to their elected councillors on local issues. What ruling/standing order allows outsiders to be summoned and then have the right to present at a local forum? Please quote the standing order that allows for this to happen and provide an example where this has happened before in 2024 and the surrounding context".

His Worship the Mayor invited two health representatives (the Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Director of Public Health) to speak to the current understanding of New Zealand health professionals in relation to fluoride and to respond to any questions of elected members on their information. As senior medical staff it was felt they may be best placed to represent the current views on this topic. There was no cost to Council from their attendance. Council cannot speak to the financial arrangements of staff of another organisation.

Council's Standing Orders can be accessed here: <https://www.nelson.govt.nz/assets/Our-council/Downloads/Mayor-and-Councillors/standing-orders/Nelson-City-Council-Standing-Orders-Adopted-10Aug2023.pdf>

Internal Document ID: [REDACTED]

Standing Order 15 relates to Public Forum, a time which may be set aside - usually at the start of an ordinary Council meeting - for members of the public to speak directly to Council. The Standing Orders do not specify that speakers must be members of the community of Nelson, and there are multiple previous examples where they have not been. There are also many examples where a topic being of high interest to the community has led to representatives with differing perspectives speaking to Council at the same meeting as one way of demonstrating to the Council the breadth of views on that topic.

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 'DS' with a large loop and a cross-like flourish.

Devorah Nícuarta-Smith

Manager Governance and Support Services