



Ref: [REDACTED]

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27 March 2024



Dear [REDACTED]

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST REGARDING A TALK WITH SOPHIE LABELLE,  
EVENT AT THE ELMA TURNER LIBRARY, SATURDAY 9 MARCH 2024**

I refer to your official information request dated 12 March 2024 requesting answers to your questions regarding Sophie Labelle's recent talk and book-signing event at the Elma Turner Library (9 March 2024).

The information you requested is below:

1. *What was the cost to the library (and therefore ratepayers) of Sophie Labelle's visit? Please include any speaker's fees, transportation, catering, staff supervision, security, or any other expenses incurred for this event.*

The library spent \$40.37 on catering. Staff spent 6.5 hours on the event, including planning, promotion and set up.

2. *Does the library have a memorandum of understanding with Q Youth (who co-hosted the event) or any other groups to promote speaking tours?*

The library does not have a memorandum of understanding about author speaking tours with Q Youth or any other groups.

3. *As the library has now happily hosted a very partisan political event, when will it provide an equal opportunity for those who disagree with Labelle's world view to be heard?*

Author speaking events, such as Sophie Labelle's recent talk and book-signing event, are regularly held at the library. Information about future author speaking events can be found here: <https://www.nelsonpubliclibraries.co.nz/about/whats-on?category=author-talks>.

4. *Why was a request to book the private room for the Women's Rights Party for Tuesday 7 May declined, seemingly on political grounds?*

Rūma Mānuka/Activity Room is already booked at the requested time.

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5. *What investigations did the library make into Labelle's background before accepting the speaking engagement?*

For author speaking events, the library does not conduct background checks of author speakers, however the library was already aware that Sophie Labelle is a published author whose books are available to purchase in New Zealand without age restriction or classification.

6. *What safeguarding measures did the library take to ensure the event would meet the requirement under law that children under 16 are not exposed to indecent sexual content? (Crimes Act Section 124A)*

Staff are always present in the library when it is open and would notify the police if they suspected a criminal act was taking place.

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 with us, please feel free to contact Kate Miller, Manager Libraries. Email: [kate.miller@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:kate.miller@ncc.govt.nz). Ph. 03 539 5567.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Miller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Kate Miller**

Manager Libraries - Kaiwhakahaere Whare Pukapuka