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**From:** official information  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021 11:31  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** official information  
**Subject:** RESPONSE: LGOIMA 21098 - [REDACTED] - Confirmation of Facts Reported by NZ Taxpayers Union re Submissions

Kia Ora [REDACTED],

I refer to your **information request below**, Hamilton City Council is able to provide the following response.

We note that you have already received numerous responses to your query below from a number of elected members. Having reviewed these responses, we consider your requests below to have been answered in full.

If you require anyfurther clarification or any further information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

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

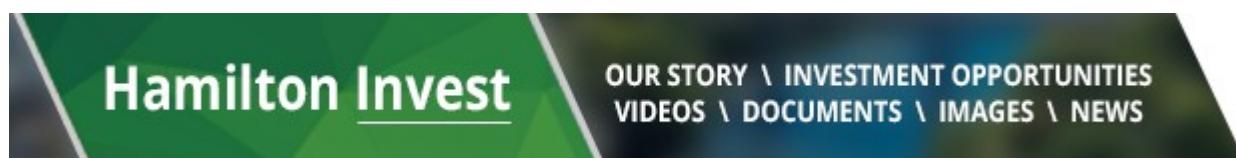
Kind Regards,

**Tatiyana** | Official Information Team  
Legal Services & Risk | People and Organisational Performance  
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On 24/03/2021, at 7:16 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good evening Ryan,

As a ratepayer within Hamilton I was disgusted and alarmed at news reported by the New Zealand Taxpayer's union. As my democratically elected representative, I write to you to enquire about the validity of what is reported, to what extent you were aware of what was happening and what you as my democratically elected representative intend to do as a result of now being aware.

The news I refer to is referenced below. In summary it reports that Rotorua Junior and Senior High Schools were visited by a Council staff member. The council staff member spoke to the students about the proposed strategy for engaging with iwi, and then prompted the children to fill out forms which were subsequently processed as formal submissions. Given the number of submissions of children under the age of 16 and 16-19, these are statistically significant. At best this shows incredibly poor judgment of HCC at worst this could be seen as HCC making a deliberate attempt to rig its own consultation process.

I request a response the following questions:

- Are the facts reported by the NZ Taxpayers Union true, and if not which specific facts are not true?

If all / or some of the facts reported by NZ Taxpayers Union are true, then:-

- To what extent were you aware of the solicitation of public submissions by minors, without parental consent?
- Were other schools approached in a similar manner by a council staff member, and if 'yes' which schools?
- Now that you are aware, what steps will you take to rectify both the impact on what should be a democratic process and what steps will you take to ensure this never happens again?

I await your reply in anticipation and expect to use the content of your reply to make an informed decision on how I vote and discuss my voting with family and friends at the next HCC elections.

Reference: - [https://www.taxpayers.org.nz/hcc\\_children](https://www.taxpayers.org.nz/hcc_children)

Regards,

[REDACTED]