

30 September 2024

File Ref: OIAPR -1274023063-31132

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2024-247**

I refer to your request for information dated 21 September, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 23 September. You have requested the following:

*“Under the OIA act, I am hereby requesting information related to Connemara loss of power incident and further actions on vessel and Bluebridge.*

- 1. All reporting from Bluebridge since the time of incident about loss of power of Connemara.*
- 2. What impositions or detention has been placed on Connemara.*

*What news/notice has been put by Council on their website about this incident?*

- 3. How this incident is treated by Council and what are differences of treatment as compared to Interislanders Kaitaki incident.*

*Kaitaki lost power only for 1 hour and Connemara lost power for 2 hours + and could not regain it at all. Had to be towed in without her propulsion.*

- 4. Internal meeting records between senior management and harbour master on this incident and record related to decision made so far.”*

## Greater Wellington's response follows:

1. *All reporting from Bluebridge since the time of incident about loss of power of Connemara.*

The vessel contacted Wellington Harbour radio after its loss of power. During the course of that evening and subsequent morning there were conversations between Bluebridge marine management, the *Connemara*, harbour radio and Harbourmaster. These were around the state of the vessel, response options and discussion around the subsequent tow into the harbour.

2. *What impositions or detention has been placed on Connemara. What news/notice has been put by Council on their website about this incident*

Greater Wellington believes that this part of your request is connected more closely with the functions of Maritime New Zealand and ordinarily would have transferred this part of the request. However, we understand from Maritime New Zealand that it has already received this request. We have provided what information we have below.

Maritime New Zealand has detained the vessel to the Port of Wellington, the detention allows for movement between berths and sea trials before sailings resume.

There was no Direction issued by the Harbourmaster in relation to the *Connemara* and this event, however all vessels operated by Interislander and Bluebridge are covered by a Direction relating to distance off the south coast in certain conditions (<https://www.gw.govt.nz/document/20693/wellington-regional-council-harbourmasters-direction-1a2023-ferry-distance-off-wellington-south-coast-in-certain-conditions/>).

No information has been placed on Greater Wellington's website or social media as a result of this incident.

3. *How this incident is treated by Council and what are differences of treatment as compared to Interislanders Kaitaki incident.*

The Harbourmaster's office considers any loss of power situation as serious and will assess the event along with any other Greater Wellington business functions as required. The implications of the incident are assessed, including vessel type, location, weather and available support. Communication, co-ordination and information sharing are first step as required.

During the *Kaitaki* incident Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) was activated because of the potential scale of the incident and the possibility of a large number or displaced and or injured people. With the *Connemara* there was no Mayday (Distress) declared, lower numbers on board (88 vs over 800) and the ship was not in any immediate danger.

4. *Internal meeting records between senior management and harbour master on this incident and record related to decision made so far.*

To date there have not been any meetings internally in relation to this event. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 as the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and there are no grounds for believing the information is held by another organisation. There were limited communications notifying people of the events on the evening and following morning. There will be written reporting to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting in November as part of regular reporting. Any other reports will be as required.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Lian Butcher (she/her)**

Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Taiao | Group Manager Environment