

Complete Copy of EMAIL

From: Corporate Services Mailbox <CorporateServices@tcdc.govt.nz>

Date: On Thursday, 21 May 2026 at 09:01

Subject: Important Information: Councillors' Obligations – Legal and lawful.

To: CouncillorsQueries@protonmail.com <CouncillorsQueries@protonmail.com>

Thursday, 21 May 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Response to correspondence received, 18 May 2026.

Please accept this email as acknowledgement of receipt of your correspondence titled "Important Information: Councillors' Obligations – Legal and lawful."

This response is provided on behalf of the mayor and Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Council rejects the assertions made in your correspondence, including suggestions that councillors or the Chief Executive may be acting unlawfully, engaging in misconduct, or exposing themselves to criminal liability. These claims have no factual or legal basis.

Elected members are democratically elected to make decisions in the interests of their communities and are supported by professional staff and qualified legal advice. All Council decisions are made in accordance with the statutory framework governing local authorities in New Zealand, including (but not limited to) the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, and other relevant legislation.

Your correspondence relies on interpretations of legal principles that are incorrect and are not recognised under New Zealand law. In particular, references to distinctions between "natural persons" and "statutory persons", the characterisation of Council as a "corporate service provider" operating by contract, and suggestions that statutory obligations depend on individual consent are commonly associated with pseudo-legal or "sovereign citizen" style arguments. These arguments have been consistently rejected by New Zealand courts.

For example, in *James v District Court at Whanganui* [2023] NZCA 181, the Court of Appeal confirmed that such arguments "...are properly characterised as 'sovereign citizen' type arguments" and "cannot succeed."

The mayor and Council are satisfied that Council continues to act lawfully and within its statutory mandate. Allegations of criminal conduct or breaches of the Crimes Act 1961 or other statutes are entirely unsupported.

The questions posed in your correspondence do not create any legal obligation on Council to respond further, nor do they alter Council's statutory responsibilities or authority. Accordingly, no further correspondence on this matter will be entered into.

If you are seeking official information held by Council, you may make a request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman.
Information is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of

Corporate Services

Thames-Coromandel District Council