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LGOIMA

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Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Janna Sherman – Hokitika Guardian
Information requested:	CE resignation information
Response by:	Scott Baxendale, Acting Chief Executive

10 July 2024

Janna Sherman
Hokitika Guardian

Via Email: janna.sherman@hokitika.guardian.co.nz

Dear Janna

Official information request for CE resignation information

I refer to your official information request dated 18 June 2024 for CE resignation information.

You have asked for the following information:

- 1. Was Mr Bastion's resignation unexpected, and did he give a reason that can be made public (i.e. health, personal)?**

Personal reasons.

- 2. When was his contract due to come up for renewal?**

November 2026

- 3. Was this a managed termination, based on performance or other reason?**

No.

- 4. Was a special meeting called with councillors or at least the CE performance review committee?**

No.

- 5. Was a consultant/lawyer/ HR specialist engaged in the process as was the case with the GDC and the recent sudden exit of their CE?**

We are refusing this part of your request under section 7(2)(a) of LGOIMA to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Regarding the appointment of Scott Baxendale as acting CE. Typically we see Lesley Crichton or TC Cook in this role.

- 6. Is there a reason neither has been appointed in this instance?**

Group Manager of Corporate Services, Lesley Crichton can fill in as Acting Chief Executive over short periods of time, however, the statutory commitments of her role, do not allow for a longer commitment to Acting Chief Executive.

Group Manager of Regulatory, Planning and Community Service, Te Arohanui Cook has resigned from Westland District Council. Within her notice period of three months', she will finalise outstanding projects. Standing in as Acting Chief Executive for an undesignated amount of time is inconsistent with her intention to leave the Council.

(I note TC has also resigned, but this is does not take effect until September)

Correct.

7. Looking to recruitment what are the attributes Westland council will be looking for?

This would be part of the job description.

8. When do you hope to start recruiting, and will you use the same firm as Grey and Buller who have both recently been in the same position.

This process is led by the Mayor and CE's Review Committee. Staff, including the Acting CE are not part of any recruitment process.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.

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If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,



Scott Baxendale | Acting Chief Executive

SB/MB