

Attachment 5: Email discussion between the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Committee's external representative regarding Mayoral expenditure practices (related to Question 4)

Anne Rose

From: Bev Wakem <bevwakem@actrix.co.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 16 March 2019 4:53 p.m.
To: Wendy Walker; 'graeme mitchell'
Cc: Roy Baker
Subject: RE: Meeting with Mike today 14th March 2019.

IN CONFIDENCE

Further to Graeme's summary (for which many thanks) I note the following "for the record" :

1. Grant Taylor had been fully briefed on the issues following my call to Tony Appleyard at OAG seeking advice. He asked to be kept in touch and if necessary would make a formal examination of the issues.
2. Mike was clearly upset at what he perceived to be a lack of trust, lack of specific guidance and not having had the reasons for my refusing to approve some items without discussion with him. I don't think he is being deliberately disingenuous, but there is a "block". It was emphasised to him that, unlike his previous employment, he is – as an elected official – subject to a higher standard than might have been the case in other agencies. Certainly, from the examples he gave, there seemed to be a more relaxed and broader view of expenditure.
3. I did agree that when I reviewed his claims from now on, I would discuss with him reasons for refusal. There is certainly a gap in understanding which I will have to work on with him. And I will record in writing the outcome of these. I also indicated again that I would not approve anything without a receipt, and a 2 or 3 line justification for the expense.

Bev

Dame Beverley Wakem DNZM. CBE

(m)64 027 449 5798

From: Wendy Walker [<mailto:Wendy.Walker@porirua.govt.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 14 March 2019 10:51 p.m.
To: graeme mitchell
Cc: Cr Beverley Wakem; Roy Baker
Subject: Re: Meeting with Mike today 14th March 2019.

Thanks Graeme. That is helpful.
Regards
Wendy

Ngā mihi,

Wendy Walker
Chief Executive

Kaiwhakahaere Matua



Tel: [04 237 1401](tel:042371401)

On 14/03/2019, at 8:19 PM, graeme mitchell  wrote:

Wendy, I thought it might be useful to advise how the meeting on Mike's sensitive expenditure went today.

Overall I think it fair to say that both sides of the issue of what has been happening over several months were aired.

On the one hand it was made clear that the processes adopted by Council in disallowing some cost claims made by Mike were in accordance with the understanding of Council of Council's policy on sensitive expenditure, albeit that judgement is often needed

to apply that policy effectively in determining what is appropriate or not appropriate.

On the other hand Mike expressed frustration at the apparent lack of written policy and or understanding of the practices he was following.

Basically he feels that he is only claiming for reasonable expenses incurred as a direct result of his role as Mayor, and doing no more or less

than was accepted as reasonable in 2 former (fairly transparent) positions.

Examples were discussed supporting both sides.

It was agreed that much of the issue related to the perceived nature of the items being claimed and perhaps

more detailed explanations of the claims, and vouchers in all cases, were needed.

And that was where the meeting ended, with the hope that more info on claims .and vouchers in all cases, would reduce the scope for any perceived inappropriate practice, recognising the heightened scrutiny that is possible over the next 6 months.

I hope the meeting has helped. I am happy to provide further info if required and would appreciate being kept informed of any issues going forward.

Graeme.

On 7/03/2018, at 9:12 am, Graeme Mitchell  wrote:

Ok with me .See you then

Sent from my iPhone

On 7/03/2018, at 7:08 AM, Wendy Walker
<Wendy.Walker@porirua.govt.nz> wrote:

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