

From: [LGOIMA](#)
To: [Robin McCarthy](#)
Subject: 859 CEO contract and meeting, Follow up reply
Date: Thursday, 18 September 2025 2:00:00 pm
Attachments: [mdc_logoround-transparent_5f714c05-1956-4f84-9197-0b60100dcd99.png](#)
[mdc_landscapelogo_transparent_10b75d24-300f-456c-8203-d3454f9dc7e7.png](#)

Hi Robin

As you suggested we contacted Councillor Aronsen and asked him to comment on your request and our earlier response to you regarding a meeting of the Chief Executive's Performance Committee.

Councillor Aronsen advised that you were told councillors had a public excluded meeting on the CEO contract on 28th April, regarding which you were given no information. He confirmed that there wasn't a set date for the next meeting, and that there were no minutes for public viewing recorded.

The councillor confirmed there was no reason to infer from what he said to you that there was a later meeting scheduled, with an agenda produced, which was then postponed.

The information provided by Councillor Aronsen doesn't contradict any of the information we provided to you in our initial response. We will therefore now consider this matter closed.

Regarding the discussion about a security guard – this was discussed at the latest Audit & Risk committee meeting and no councillors said they recalled a proposal to employ a security guard at the Fairlie office or that the CEO requested that staff obtain a quote.

Please see below an excerpt from Audit and Risk minutes. While these have not been formally adopted, they have been approved by the Chair, Mayor and CEO:

The Chair then invited all councillors present to state whether they believed there had been any discussion about employing a security guard at Fairlie or requesting quotes. Members recalled general discussion about security guards in other councils and incidents at Twizel and Ashburton but unanimously confirmed that there had been no request for employing a security guard at Fairlie or for obtaining quotes, and that the allegations were completely unfounded.

The committee agreed the minutes accurately reflected the meeting and that no such direction was given. The Chairman emphasized the importance of careful communication from councillors about internal discussions to prevent misinformation. The committee resolved to accept the minutes as a true record as they had earlier in the meeting and to respond to the requester accordingly.

Kind regards

Nic

From: Robin McCarthy <robin.mccarthy@extra.co.nz>
Date: Saturday, 16 August 2025 at 8:31 AM
To: LGOIMA <LGOIMA@mackenzie.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 859 CEO contract and meeting, Response

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Hi Nic,

It was there. I asked councilor Aronsen what the outcome was. He advised me what took place. I suggest you contact him.

It may have been taken down since. I don't know if I can access the URL that had it displayed.

This is looking like a repeat of the incident where the acting Mayor said that the discussion and request for a costing on placing a security guard at the door of the council never took place when it quite clearly did. All the councilors in attendance witnessed the conversation at that workshop meeting.

And then there was the alleged LGOIMA request, which I never made.

I will send you a copy of a recent request for information I made to the CEO, which has not been acknowledged. This was in respect to the zoned 160 hectares at Tekapo Airport.

Regards,

Robin McCarthy.

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On 15 Aug 2025, at 1:35 pm, LGOIMA <lgoima@mackenzie.govt.nz> wrote:

Good afternoon Robin,

Before we responded to your enquiry we made the following checks:

- Checked the on-line council calendar for any meeting placeholder dates which might have not been removed - there are none.
- Checked the system we use for the management and publication of meeting agendas and minutes - there are no recent entries relating to this committee.
- Spoke with the Governance Advisor who confirmed that:
 - no recent meetings have taken place,
 - the date for the next meeting has not yet been set,
 - no agenda has been created.
- Spoke with the CEO who was unaware of any meeting that didn't take place and did not think that a date for the next meeting has been set.
- Spoke with the Mayor who confirmed that no date has been set for the next meeting of this committee.
- The only references we were able to find were to the previous committee meeting which took place on 29th April 2025.

To help us respond to your query, it would you be able to provide us with the URL of the section of the website which contains the agenda you refer to, with a screenshot if possible?

Kind regards

Nic

Nāku noa, nā / Yours sincerely,

LGOIMA Officer



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53 Main Street, Fairlie 7925

mackenzie.govt.nz

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From: Robin McCarthy <robin.mccarthy@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 15 August 2025 11:41 am

To: LGOIMA <LGOIMA@mackenzie.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: 859 CEO contract and meeting, Response



CAUTION: This email originated from outside Mackenzie District Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Nic,

The CEO's performance review was clearly a published agenda item on the councils website.

Regards,

Robin McCarthy.

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On 15 Aug 2025, at 10:06 am, LGOIMA <lgoima@mackenzie.govt.nz> wrote:

Dear Robin

Re: information relating to *request for information* relating to Contract and meeting (Our ref. 859).

We have decided to release the information you requested on 14 August 2025; - please see our answers below **in blue**.

Request:

1. The term of the CEO's contract and when it expires.

Please refer to the website with article dated 7 October 2022 announcing appointment for an initial term of five years

<https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/pages/mac-news/2022/appointment-of-chief-executive>

2. I am advised by a councilor that the recent council agenda item reviewing the CEO's performance did not take place. If this was the case, please advise why not.

This is incorrect. No item relating to the CEO's performance reviews has been tabled in any recent meeting agendas. The dates for the Chief Executive's Review Committee meetings are set by the Mayor, and the date for the next meeting has not yet been provided to

either the Chief Executive or governance staff.

3. If this meeting did take place, please forward the minutes of this meeting.

As indicated above, the Mayor has not yet set a date for this meeting.

As outlined in the candidate handbook, all LGOIMA requests lodged by electoral candidates during this time are required to be made available to all other candidates. The Candidate Handbook is available online https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1024828/LGE25-MackenzieDC-Candidate-Handbook-v9.pdf. Printed copies are available on request.

'Council is required to respond to information requests made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Any information supplied to a candidate as part of a LGOIMA request response will be shared to all candidates as soon as possible after the original information release.'

Details of the request, the response, and any information provided by council will be published on the council website, in the 'elections' section. All candidates will be notified by email when the response is posted to the website.

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.

If you wish to discuss this further with us, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Nic