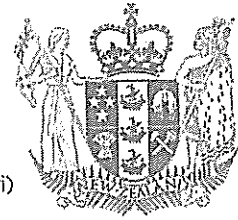


# Hon Nanaia Mahuta

---

MP for Hauraki-Waikato  
Minister for Māori Development  
Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for the Environment  
Associate Minister of Housing and Urban Development (Māori)



13 FEB 2019

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 1 December 2018 about your policy ideas for addressing inappropriate behaviour by elected officials.

Since I received the Local Government portfolio I have been assessing how the local government sector functions as a whole as well as the performance of individual councils. I have been made aware of a number of instances of difficult working relationships between elected local government representatives and council staff during that time. It has been made clear to me that current local government legislation requires improvement.

I have asked officials from the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) to develop advice, including consideration of the issues you have identified. I have also asked Department officials to maintain contact with you as this work develops. I note your request to meet with me to discuss these issues further. I regret that I am unable to do so at this time due to other commitments.

Thank you again for writing.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nanaia Mahuta'.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Local Government