

6 January 2026

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-45934

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2025-437**

I refer to your request for information dated 10 December 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 10 December 2025. You have requested the following:

1. “Fresh air intake on electric double-deck buses”
  - The current status of solutions for the fresh air intake on double-deck buses, including whether parts have been received, installation is complete, and operation has been confirmed as effective.
2. Enabling fresh air intake in buses already capable The 2024 letter stated that operators had been asked to modify AC systems, but progress was not being tracked. Please provide:
  - Any updates on operator actions since September 2024, including which vehicles now have fresh air enabled.
  - Correspondence or records related to any follow-up requests, deadlines, or instructions given to operators on this matter.
  - Any monitoring data used over the past year to inform decisions about acceptable ventilation levels.
3. Higher-grade filtration Since the 2024 letter:  
Any reassessment conducted in 2025 regarding MERV 13 or equivalent filtration options.
  - Any feasibility studies, updated advice from suppliers, or cost analyses completed since September 2024.
  - Any trials or investigations into supplementary air-cleaning technologies.

4. Progress reporting The 2024 letter stated that a report would be produced once a solution for the remaining double-deck models was confirmed.  
Has this report now been completed? If so, please provide it.  
If not, please share the current expected timeframe and any project plans or milestones developed in 2025.
5. Current air-quality status  
Please provide any current information held by GWRC on the overall air quality in the Metlink bus fleet.”

**Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

**The current status of solutions for the fresh air intake on double-deck buses, including whether parts have been received, installation is complete, and operation has been confirmed as effective.**

Greater Wellington, working with Thermo King the air conditioning supplier, discovered that introducing fresh air was not effective at reducing carbon dioxide levels, but extracting air, which draws in fresh air as a result, is effective.

We can confirm that the parts for the installation of the air extraction system on the electric double decker buses have been received, and installation has been completed on all buses. Greater Wellington considers the operation of the installed extractors as effective.

**Any updates on operator actions since September 2024, including which vehicles now have fresh air enabled.**

Greater Wellington can confirm that all operators’ double decker buses have fresh air introduction operating on their upper level. Additionally, if a single decker bus is capable of introducing fresh air, this has also been enabled.

**Correspondence or records related to any follow-up requests, deadlines, or instructions given to operators on this matter.**

Please refer to **Attachment 1** for copies of all correspondence related to any follow-up requests, deadlines, or instructions given to operators on this matter.

**Any monitoring data used over the past year to inform decisions about acceptable ventilation levels.**

Since the Electric Large Vehicle Double Decker (ELVDD) fan extraction system was proven to be effective in May 2024, no further monitoring has been undertaken.

Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), whereby that the information requested is not held by the local authority and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—

- (i) held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation; or
- (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

**Any reassessment conducted in 2025 regarding MERV 13 or equivalent filtration options.**

Greater Wellington's air conditioning supplier for the Metlink buses has confirmed that the MERV13 filtration system is not feasible on the existing units as it causes excessive back pressure which may result in a system failure.

**Any feasibility studies, updated advice from suppliers, or cost analyses completed since September 2024.**

No further feasibility studies, updated advice, or cost analyses have been completed since September 2024. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Act in that the information requested is not held by the local authority and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—

- (i) held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation; or
- (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

**Any trials or investigations into supplementary air-cleaning technologies**

Greater Wellington confirms there has been no additional action in this area since the date that the previous request was responded to on 9 September 2024.

**Has the report mentioned in the response to information request 2024-204 been completed?**

This report has not yet been finalised as we were awaiting the final installation of extraction fans. Greater Wellington intends to complete the report and proactively release it on the Greater Wellington website.

We confirm that carbon dioxide monitoring was started on 18 December 2025 to confirm the effectiveness, and these results will form part of the final report.

**The current expected timeframe and any project plans or milestones developed in 2025.**

We do not yet have a definitive date for when the report will be written by and therefore cannot provide an accurate timeframe for the delivery and release of the report or any other project plans.

**Any current information held by GWRC on the overall air quality in the Metlink bus fleet.**

The information provided in the response to 2024-204 remains current and accurate, in tandem with the additional information provided in this response. We do not hold any other information on overall air quality for the Metlink bus fleet.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Paul Tawharu**

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink (Acting)