

Barbara Holland

15 March 2017

CEO
Local Government Commission
PO Box 5362
Wellington 8140

Dear Sir

Submission: Invitation for alternative reorganisation applications and other proposals for change to West Coast local government arrangements

I do not support any structural changes to the current local government arrangement of three district councils and one regional council for the West Coast.

I strongly advocate for ongoing investigation of, and application of, shared services arrangements between district councils wherever possible.

Within this wide-ranging LGC review I shall confine my comments to one particular area of concern only. I particularly want to advocate for greater attention to be paid to current liquor licensing arrangements across the whole of the West Coast as I believe there is considerable opportunity for improvements in this regard. The following remarks are drawn from my community involvement in alcohol-related harm reduction activities over a number of years including experience in dealing with all three district licensing committees on the West Coast.

I would like to see the following:

- The three existing district councils on the West Coast sharing the delivery of a single liquor licensing service
- Development of a joint local alcohol policy across the whole West Coast
- Creation of a joint West Coast District Licensing Committee (DLC)
- More effective monitoring and inspections

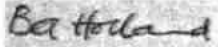
The benefits I see arising are:

- Shared resources and collaborative consistent approaches across the three district councils
- Skilled and efficient management of this statutory service
- Standardised policy for the whole West Coast
- One agency for the Medical Officer of Health / Community Public Health and the Police to deal with instead of three as at present
- Would enable a joint DLC to build up expertise
- A shared licensing inspectorate would likely be more focused, effective and efficient
- Possibility of cost savings from fewer hearings

It is my understanding that the above proposals are already legally possible under empowering provisions of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 without requiring any transfer of statutory obligations to one council. However, I am unclear whether the Local Government Commission can mandate any/all of the above proposed steps. Nevertheless I wish to have these matters drawn to your attention for consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this particular aspect of local government responsibility and associated service activities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ba Holland". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.