

21 May 2026

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

## Request for Official Information LG26-0169 - Process Engineered Fuel Company

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 18 May 2026 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

**Please provide all information held by Council from 1 January 2025 to present relating to any presentation made to council, any proposed or actual agreement, commitment, facilitation arrangement, or formal progression step between your Council and [PEFCO](#) [Process Engineered Fuel Company], including any:**

- memorandum of understanding, heads of agreement, draft agreements, lease arrangements, or similar documents;
- discussions relating to municipal waste supply, procurement, infrastructure support, or Council facilitation of the proposal;
- internal recommendations, approvals, or correspondence relating to progression of the proposal.

**This request includes both executed and draft documents, as well as correspondence discussing such arrangements.**

### QLDC RESPONSE

#### Decision to refuse information

QLDC has good reason under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA for refusing the information requested. QLDC consider it is necessary to refuse the requested information on the basis of the following grounds:

- Section 17(e) – that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Section 17(e) of the LGOIMA clarifies that a local authority is not required to provide information that it does not hold, or that cannot be located despite reasonable efforts. This ensures that agencies are not required to create new information in order to respond to a request.

QLDC undertook reasonable steps to identify information within scope of your request, including consultation with the relevant team within the QLDC Property and Infrastructure Directorate. Council

also carried out searches of its email archives for correspondence dated between 1 January 2025 and 18 May 2026. Two separate searches were undertaken:

- Search 1: Emails containing the keyword “PEFCO”, which returned six emails.
- Search 2: Emails containing the term “Process Engineered Fuel Company”, which returned two emails.

The search results were reviewed to determine whether any information fell within the scope of your request. Following this review, no information within scope was identified.

As a local authority, QLDC is committed to providing access to information it holds. However, following reasonable enquiries, no information falling within the scope of your request was identified. Accordingly, Council refuses your request under section 17(e) of LGOIMA on the basis that the requested information is not held by QLDC.

### **Right to review the above decision**

You have the right to request an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA. Further information is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with QLDC, please contact [Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz) (Director Democracy Services).

QLDC trusts that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

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