

7 May 2021

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Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 7 April 2021 for information regarding Hutt City Council’s legal spend.

We have communicated our decisions to release information below each of your questions. Please note some information will be provided to you at a later date as we are still gathering this.

Some information has been withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA to protect privacy, and one question has been declined under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA as the information is not held.

1. Total external legal spend. What was your total spend on external legal service fees & service providers in the years ended 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 respectively?

We will release this information to you, it will arrive at a later date.

2. Amount incurred with each legal service provider (professional service providers IE- firms) also include suppliers such as “Brookers” (above \$5k)

We will release this information to you, it will arrive at a later date.

3. For each of the years ended 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020:

- (a) Legal team staffing numbers Headcount: how many lawyers were employed or engaged in a legal role by your organisation during each year: Full time equivalent (FTE) lawyers: if different, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) such lawyers?

Answer: In both years there was one FTE in a lawyer capacity, in the legal team.

- (b) Non-legal staff in legal team/law department Headcount: how many non-legal staff were employed or engaged during each year in the legal team or otherwise directly associated with or supporting the legal staff in

Answer: There was some legal support in both these years although not officially part of the legal team, this was about 0.5 FTE.

3(a) above: FTE non-legal staff: if different, how many FTE such staff?

Answer: In both years there was one FTE in a lawyer capacity, in the legal team.

4. Total internal legal spend. In each year ended 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 what was your: Direct total investment on internal legal services, including all salaries & service providers: The additional indirect costs of internal legal services?

Answer: Due to the small size of the legal team we are unable to release salary details. We are withholding this under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA to protect privacy. In doing so, we considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

5. At what organisational level does your most senior lawyer report?

Answer: Tier 2 – reporting direct to the Chief Executive.

6. Total staff numbers. In total, how many of the following were employed or otherwise utilised by your organisation as at 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 respectively?

(a) Total employees/staff in whatever capacity if different, the full-time equivalent (ie FTE) number of all such employees/staff

Answer: 30 June 2019 – 471, 30 June 2020 – 483.

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.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Kelly Alkema
Chief People Officer
People & Capability

13 May 2021



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 7 April 2021 for information regarding Hutt City Council’s legal spend.

On 7 May we provided you with our decisions on releasing this information, and the answers to questions three to six. Please see below the remaining information from your request.

1. Total external legal spend. What was your total spend on external legal service fees & service providers in the years ended 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 respectively?

Answer: Please see below a table outlining this information.

Total External Legal Spend on Main Providers (excluding GST)

Firm	2018/19	2019/20
Thomas Dewar	\$143,834	\$241,199
DLA	\$263,276	\$345,430
Buddle Findlay	\$292,127	\$311,136
Simpson Grierson	\$7,804	\$43,816
Chapman Tripp	\$37,310	\$4,823
Dundas Street	\$45,987	\$22,554
Total:	\$790,338	\$968,988

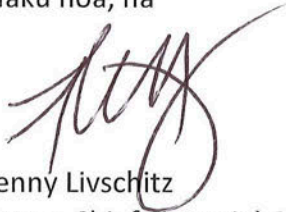
2. Amount incurred with each legal service provider (professional service providers IE- firms) also include suppliers such as “Brookers” (above \$5k)

Answer: Please refer to the answer for question one.

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.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jenny Livschitz', written over a faint, illegible stamp or watermark.

Jenny Livschitz
Group Chief Financial Officer
Corporate Services