

20 July 2022

Alan Waller

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Alan

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

We refer to your official information request dated 30 June 2022 for information about the old post-office building in Naenae. Specifically, you have asked:

1. *Why did the Hutt City Council buy the building especially as it is earthquake hazard?*
2. *How much did it cost to buy this building?*
3. *What is the latest cost in \$\$\$ to get this building up to the latest earthquake code?*

Hutt City Council has been working with the community to identify how the Naenae town centre could be revitalised, including through the provision of a community space to replace the previous community hall. The community's preference was to repurpose an existing and vacant building in the town centre rather than building new. Several properties were investigated for this purpose.

The old post-office building was identified as being strategically significant. It is a landmark heritage building that is considered part of Naenae's identity and is positioned on a key corner site. It could provide the space needed and was vacant. It was purchased for \$550,000 + GST.

The latest estimate for seismic strengthening is \$300,000 – \$400,000 depending on options. The strengthening will bring the building up to 80% of new building standard and is part of the Long Term Plan provision of \$9.0M to rejuvenate the Naenae town centre.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy