

27 April 2023

Regan Sayer  
New Zealand Taxpayers Union

s 7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Regan

**Request for Information pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 January 2023 in which you requested official information relating to rates, personnel, audit and risk oversight and other financial matters, for the 2021/22 financial year.

Our responses are provided below.

**1. Average residential rates**

\$2950.20

**2. Average non-residential rates**

\$11,873.33

**3. Personnel**

- (a) The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance**
- (b) The FTE number of staff employed by Council-controlled organisations**
- (c) The FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by Council-controlled organisations**
- (d) The number of staff including those employed by Council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000**
- (e) The total number of staff including those employed by Council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000**

For question 3(a), there would be less than 5 staff. We advise that more specific information is withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of individuals.

Please refer to the Council's Annual Report for 2021-22 [here](#) for responses to 3(b) to 3(e).

### **3.1. Management**

- 1. The FTE number of managers employed. Please confirm the ratio of management to staff.**
- 2. The average and median salary of a manager.**

We are unable to compile material for 2021-22 for the questions in 3.1 above, so our request for those statistics is refused under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA, where the information cannot be compiled manually without substantial collation or research. You may, however, find relevant material in the Council's Annual Report for 2021-22 [here](#).

### **3.2. Communications**

- 1. The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.**
- 2. The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.**
- 3. Total expenditure on communications & marketing.**

We advise that Hutt city Council does not have marketing staff.

We are unable to compile material for 2021-22 for the questions in 3.2 above, so our request for that year's statistics is refused under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA, where the information cannot be compiled manually without substantial collation or research. You may, however, find useful information in our response to a previous LGOIMA request, to Anusha Bradley in July 2022. This response is available on the Hutt City Council website ([www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)).

### **3.3. Consultants & contractors**

- 1. Total expenditure on consultants and contractors.**
- 2. Total number of consultants and contractors paid.**

Your request for this information in question 3.3 is refused under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA, where the information cannot be compiled manually without substantial collation or research.

### **3.4. Core services**

- a. The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.**
- b. The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.**
- c. The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.**

Our record systems do not define staff roles in the manner requested for 3.4 above. While it could be done manually, your request for this is refused under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA, because the information cannot be compiled manually without substantial collation or research.

Hutt City Council has completed a number of information requests in the past year asking about various aspects of the Council's staffing. We suggest that you review our responses to these previous LGOIMA requests, which are available on the Hutt City Council website ([www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)).

#### **4. Audit and Risk Oversight**

##### **a. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?**

Five elected members and one independent member are appointed to Council's Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

##### **b. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?**

Yes

##### **c. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?**

Yes

##### **d. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?**

No

##### **e. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?**

Yes

##### **f. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?**

Yes

#### **5. Payments to third parties**

##### **a. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.**

Information extracted from our accounts payable \$191,816.41

##### **b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.**

Information extracted from our accounts payable \$95,584.58

##### **c. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.**

Information extracted from our accounts payable \$63,649.96

The above information excludes payments made by staff on credit cards. To extract these payments would involve a manual process, so is refused under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA, because that information cannot be compiled manually without substantial collation or research.

## 6. Debt

### 1. Net debt as a percent of rates income

### 2. The dollar amount of debt per rating unit

### 3. The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit

This information is tabulated below:

6.0	Debt		Group		Council	
			2022	2022	2021	2021
6.1	Net debt as a percent of rates invoice	Rates Income	130,462,000.00	130,880,000.00	113,625,000.00	114,004,000.00
		Net Debt	224,705,000.00	211,260,000.00	207,681,000.00	194,111,000.00
		Ratio	172.2%	161.4%	182.8%	170.3%
6.2	\$ amount of debt per rating unit	Debt	255,700,000.00	255,700,000.00	215,700,000.00	215,700,000.00
		Rating units	41,013.00	41,013.00	40,331.00	40,331.00
		Ratio	6,234.61	6,234.61	5,348.24	5,348.24
		Net Debt	224,705,000.00	211,260,000.00	207,681,000.00	194,111,000.00
		Rating units	41,013.00	41,013.00	40,331.00	40,331.00
		Ratio	5,478.87	5,151.05	5,149.41	4,812.95
6.20	\$ amount of interest paid per rating unit	Interest paid	7,784,000.00	7,784,000.00	7,432,000.00	7,432,000.00
		Rating units	41,013.00	41,013.00	40,331.00	40,331.00
		Ratio	189.79	189.79	184.28	184.28

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](http://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**