



26 May 2026

Ben Beattie

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Ben,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 30 April 2026, seeking information about Council funding for public museums and galleries.

Specifically, you requested:

- 1. The amount of funding your Council has provided to public museums and galleries for each of the last 10 financial years*
- 2. The amount (if any) allocated specifically for acquisitions of art and other items for museums and galleries for each of the last 10 financial years*
- 3. The two amounts above as a percentage of total Council spending for each financial year.*

Answer:

In response to your questions about Council funding for museums and galleries, this information is recorded in Council's [Annual Reports](#), which are publicly available on our website under the Arts and Culture activity. This activity includes the Petone Settlers Museum, The Dowse Art Museum, and Little Theatre.

However, for ease of reference, we have collated the relevant information for the last 10 financial years.

Table 1, attached, sets out total operating and capital expenditure for this activity, along with each amount expressed as a percentage of total Council spend.

Operating expenditure covers the day-to-day costs of running these facilities, including staff and overheads. Capital expenditure includes investment in the activity, such as building works, upgrades, and acquisitions of collection items, including artworks.

In response to your question about acquisitions funding, **Table 2** sets out the budgeted and actual expenditure for new artwork acquisitions at The Dowse Art Museum for the same period. Where actual expenditure exceeds budget, this reflects external funding received for specific acquisitions.

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: [Office of the Ombudsman - Complaints](#), or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website: [Proactive releases - Hutt City Council](#).

Ngā mihi nui



Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Table 1: Arts and Culture (Museums and Galleries) Expenditure and Percentage of Total Council Spend (\$000)

Detail (\$000)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Activity grouping in Annual Reports	Separate Activity	Included in Integrated Community Services				Included in Connectivity, Creativity, Learning & Recreation				
Operating Expenditure	4,310	4,421	4,724	4,649	4,858	4,987	5,316	5,975	6,073	6,479
% of total Council spend	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%	2.4%	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	2.2%	1.9%
Capital Expenditure	662	599	283	697	477	202	408	1,321	548	278
% of total Council spend	1.2%	1.2%	0.4%	1.6%	0.8%	0.3%	0.6%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%

Table 2: Dowse Art Museum Acquisitions – Budgeted and Actual Expenditure

Year	Budget	Actual
2015/16	\$35,000	\$35,000
2015/16	\$26,000	\$30,000
2015/16	\$26,000	\$24,000
2015/16	\$40,000	\$55,000
2015/16	\$43,000	\$64,000
2015/16	\$84,000	\$89,000
2015/16	\$45,000	\$41,000
2015/16	\$45,000	\$57,000
2015/16	\$46,000	\$56,000
2015/16	\$47,000	\$57,000