



20 April 2026

Rhys Hurley
rhys@taxpayers.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rhys,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 19 March 2026, seeking information about Hutt City Council's adoption and implementation of the Living Wage. Specifically, you requested:

- *Copies of reports, briefings, emails, and other documents relating to how the decision to adopt the Living Wage was made, including whether the decision was formally voted on by elected members or implemented through executive decision-making;*
- *Correspondence between the Chief Executive, the Mayor, and councillors relating to the adoption of the Living Wage;*
- *The total cost to Council of implementing the Living Wage, including initial implementation costs, ongoing annual costs, and any associated contractor or supplier cost increases; and*
- *The cost of obtaining and maintaining Living Wage accreditation, including application or certification fees, audit or compliance costs, and recorded staff time or administrative costs.*

Answer:

The Living Wage Policy was presented to Council in 2017 and subsequently adopted by Council in 2021. The minutes of the relevant Council meeting record



Council's consideration of the policy and a formal resolution by elected members to adopt it.

Public copies of the agenda, report, and minutes for the Council meeting at which the Living Wage Policy was adopted in 2021 are available on Council's website at the following links:

- Council agenda, 23 May 2017: [Agenda of Hutt City Council - 23 May 2017](#)
- Council minutes, 23 May 2017: [Minutes of Hutt City Council - 23 May 2017](#)
- Council agenda, 17 May 2021: [Agenda of Long Term Plan/Annual Plan Subcommittee - 24 May 2021](#)
- Council minutes, 24 May 2021: [Minutes of Long Term Plan/Annual Plan Subcommittee - 24 May 2021](#)

In relation to costs, Council does not hold information that separately records or quantifies the total cost of implementing the Living Wage, including initial implementation costs, ongoing annual costs since adoption, or any contractor or supplier cost increases attributable specifically to the Living Wage. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA, as the information is not held.

With respect to Living Wage accreditation, Council pays an annual accreditation subscription fee of \$3,000 excluding GST. Council does not hold records of staff time spent on accreditation-related compliance or administrative activities, and no separate audit or compliance costs are recorded.

Council is extending the time limit for responding to the part of your request seeking correspondence between the Chief Executive, the Mayor, and councillors under section 14(1)(a) of the LGOIMA. This part of your request relates to a decision-making process that spans several years, during which there have been changes in elected members, senior staff, and Council information systems. Additional time is therefore required to undertake appropriate searches and to assess any correspondence that may fall within scope.

Council will provide its response to this part of your request no later than **5 May 2026**.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R van der Splinter', written in a cursive style.

Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy



1 May 2026

Rhys Hurley
rhys@taxpayers.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rhys,

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

We refer to our partial response to your official information request dated 20 April 2026, in which Council extended the time limit for responding to the part of your request seeking correspondence between the Chief Executive, the Mayor, and councillors relating to the adoption of the Living Wage.

Following the extension, Council has completed its searches for correspondence between the Chief Executive, the Mayor, and councillors relating to the adoption of the Living Wage. These searches were undertaken across the email accounts and records that Council was able to access and that were relevant to the period during which the Living Wage was considered and adopted.

Despite those searches, Council has not been able to locate any correspondence falling within scope of that part of your request beyond the formal Council reporting and decision-making material previously identified.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA, on the basis that the relevant documents do not exist or cannot be found despite reasonable efforts to locate them.

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.



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Rebekah van der Splinter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy