



7 July 2025

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 6 June 2025, asking:

How much has it cost ratepayers so far in total for legal fees to defend the legal action brought by the free speech union.

And what date will this be played out in court.

Answer:

At the time your request was received on 6 June 2025, the Council had incurred a total of \$65,270.05 (GST inclusive) in legal costs related to defending the legal action brought by the Free Speech Union. This figure includes legal fees and court filing fees. Please note that further costs may be incurred after this date.

On 27 June 2025, the Council and the Free Speech Union reached a settlement in respect of this matter. As part of that, the parties have agreed that the legal proceedings will be discontinued.

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: [How to make a complaint | Ombudsman New Zealand](#), 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