

28 February 2023

Alex Murphy
New Zealand Taxpayers Union

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Alex

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

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 January 2023, in which you have requested the following official information:

1. *How are citizenship ceremonies run across your district/city, are they just run by council staff, privately organised, etc.?*
2. *Provide a list of all citizenship ceremonies which have taken place in your council's district/city over the last 3 calendar years. Alongside each ceremony listed, please also provide the following information relevant to that event:*
 - *The number of people who received their citizenship certification*
 - *The number of council staff who attended the event*
 - *The number of councillors who attended the event*
 - *The total cost of organising and running the event, costs should include but not be limited to the following; travel costs, accommodation, staff hours, consulting, venue hire, catering, entertainment, advertising*
 - *The location of the citizenship ceremony*
 - *The number of local or central government staff who were not working for your council, but were working for another govt. authority*

With regards to your first question, citizenship ceremonies in Lower Hutt are run by the Hutt City Council on behalf of Department of Internal Affairs. Department of Internal Affairs contributes some cost for this. You can learn more about the ceremonies on the council's website at www.huttcity.govt.nz/people-and-communities/ceremonies/citizenship-ceremony

The attached table provides the answers to your second question. Please note that the cost of the citizenship ceremonies in April 2021 and June 2021 cannot be reliably extracted without extensive collation of records, so this information is refused under section 17(f) of the LGOIMA. However in both cases we estimate that the cost was similar to that of the ceremony on 22 July 2021.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sales', written in a cursive style.

Susan Sales

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Appendix – Hutt City Council Citizen Ceremonies 2020 – 2022 calendar years

Hutt City Council Citizen Ceremonies 2020 – 2022 calendar years

Previous 3 years	2020 all Ceremonies cancelled due to COVID-19	8 April 2021	10 June 2021	22 July 2021	8 November 2022	1 December 2022
Number of people who received citizenship certification		50 (approx.)	60 (approx.)	100 (approx.)	150	150
Number of council staff who attended service		3	3	3	8	7
Number of councillors who attended service		3	4	3	5	4
Cost of event (either total cost if we know it, otherwise the cost incurred by HCC)		Section 17(f)	Section 17(f)	\$4,987 ex GST	\$7,550 ex GST HCC \$2,300 / DIA \$5,250	\$7,550 ex GST HCC \$2,300 / DIA \$5,250
Location of the citizenship ceremony		Lower Hutt Town Hall	Lower Hutt Town Hall	Lower Hutt Town Hall	Lower Hutt Town Hall	Lower Hutt Town Hall
Attendees representing other local or central government agencies		Lower Hutt Police Hutt Multicultural Council Citizens Advice Bureau Ginny Andersen MP	Lower Hutt Police Hutt Multicultural Council National Council of Women Ginny Andersen MP	Lower Hutt Police Hutt Multicultural Council Citizens Advice Bureau Ginny Andersen MP	Lower Hutt Police Hutt Multicultural Council Ginny Andersen MP Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce	Lower Hutt Police Hutt Multicultural Council Citizens Advice Bureau Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce

Released under the Official Information and Meetings Act