

5 January 2023

Connor Molloy
Researcher
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union | Auckland
Ratepayers' Alliance

s 7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Connor

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

We refer to your correspondence of 23 November 2022, requesting the following official information:

1. What is the total value of all artwork (including sculptures) currently owned by your council?
2. What percentage of this total value comes from artworks currently displayed for the public to enjoy?
3. How much has you council spent over the last 3 years on artwork?
4. What is the most expensive piece of artwork the council owns? How much is it worth? And is it being displayed? If it is being displayed, please indicate specifically where it is being displayed (e.g., the Mayor's office, in the council lobby etc).

Hutt City Council currently holds 3460 artworks in trust for the residents of Lower Hutt, with a combined insurance value of \$15,391,860NZD. This includes thirty public artworks installed throughout the city. The Nuku Tewhatewha exhibition in the Dowse Art Museum (<https://dowse.org.nz/exhibitions/detail/nuku-tewhatewha>) is not included in this count or insurance value, because it is held in Hutt City Council care on behalf of Mana Whenua.

At the time of your request, the artworks that are on public display is 13.7% of the total insurance value of our collection. This varies as exhibitions and displays are changed. For example, on 25 March 2023, the Hutt City Council will open an exhibition at the Dowse Art Museum that will feature over 1000 works from its collection.

In the last three years, Hutt City Council has spent \$135,000NZD on artwork, based on an annual budget of \$45,000.00NZD. This was for the acquisition of 55 artworks by 42 artists. This does not include donations or bequests to the Hutt City Council.

Hutt City Council will not disclose the individual values assigned to any works of art or objects in our care. Your request for information about the most expensive piece of artwork in our collection is therefore withheld, under section 7(2)(h) of the Act, to enable the Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

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 'Susan Sales', written in a cursive style.

Susan Sales
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy