

26 May 2023

Oliver Bryan

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Oliver

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

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 April 2023 in which you have requested the following official information:

- *How many in-house graphic designers does your organisation employ?*
- *What is the budget for in-house/employed graphic designers?*
- *How much has been spent on contracting external graphic designers?*
 - *If external contractors have been used, why did your organisation not use your employed/in-house graphic designers?*
- *If employed/in-house or external contractors have been used to design a report in the last 12 months, was the report made public?*
 - *If not, why not?*

Our response to each of these questions is provided below.

How many in-house graphic designers does your organisation employ?

One

What is the budget for in-house/employed graphic designers?

The salary of our in-house graphic designer makes up a significant component of the budget. Accordingly your request for this information is refused under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of that individual.

In our view there are no other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, for this information to be released.

How much has been spent on contracting external graphic designers? If external contractors have been used, why did your organisation not use your employed/in-house graphic designers?

The total spent on external design in 2022/23 financial year is \$101,845. A small portion of this has not yet been spent but will be by the end of the financial year.

Many of our documents are large and complex projects, with specialist requirements when it comes to information design. We engaged external contractors due to lack of in-house capacity as these documents would take up our entire resource for a period of time, leaving no capacity for other design needs. Also in some instances, we needed some additional technical expertise (particularly for the digital consultation document for Annual Plan).

If employed/in-house or external contractors have been used to design a report in the last 12 months, was the report made public? If not, why not?

All reports were made public. One further bit of design work, an infographic, was not made public because it had been designed for internal use.

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



Susan Sales
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy