



15 September 2026

Don Badman

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Don,

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

We refer to your official information request dated 18 August 2026, seeking information about the Government's Head Start local government initiative.

Specifically, you requested:

Under the LGOIMA, I would like to request the following information about the costs that your council incurred due to the Government's Head Start local government initiative:

1. What was the total cost to the council for of all activities and work undertaken to develop and finalise its response to the Government's Head Start local government initiative? For clarification purposes, this request is for the total cost or the best estimate of the total cost to the council of the Head Start initiative. Points 2-5 below are for components of this total.

2. What consultants and contractors were engaged to advise or provided information or analysis for the council's response to Head Start and what was the cost of each provider's services? What were the titles of any reports provided by these consultants or contractors?

3. What was the total cost to the council for informing or consulting with local communities and how much was spent on surveys, advertising, informational publications (flyers, pamphlets, etc.), public meetings, websites and other such activities.

4. What was the total cost of any extraordinary or special council meetings or workshops held regarding Head Start or the council's response to it?

5. What other costs were incurred by the council under this initiative and what was the value of those costs?

I am interested in costs from 5 May 2026 until the date that your response was provided to the Government.

Answer:

Question 1:

Please refer to LGOIMA response 2026-356, provided to you by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) on 14 September 2026.

Question 2:

Please refer to the GWRC response noted above.

Further information about the Head Start initiative, including relevant supporting material, is available through the following publicly accessible links:

- [Local Government Amalgamation | Hutt City Council](#)
- [Head Start amalgamation proposal submitted – News and information – Wellington City Council](#)
- [Hutt City Council backs locally led regional reform proposal | Hutt City Council](#)

Question 3:

The following community information and engagement costs were identified:

- Stakeholder Forum: **\$8,452.38**
- Regional engagement, including recruitment of a regional community panel and three rounds of engagement through the Qualifyr platform: **\$6,279.00**

Further information is available through the following publicly accessible links:

- [Head Start proposal submitted and engagement report live | Amalgamation | Let's Talk](#)

- [Local Government Amalgamation | Hutt City Council](#)
- [Hutt City Council backs locally led regional reform proposal | Hutt City Council](#)

Question 4:

Please refer to the GWRC response noted above.

Question 5:

Please refer to the GWRC response noted above.

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

Izla Corby

Senior Advisor, Official Information