

File ref: IRC-4388

10 March 2023



Kia ora 

## Citizenship Ceremonies

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 31 January 2023. You requested the following 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 who attended

Wellington City Council has granted your request for information.

### Background

Citizenship Ceremonies are hosted by the Mayor's Office, with the Department of Internal Affairs providing the Council with details of those receiving their citizenship. The Department of Internal Affairs also provides certificates and gives the Council a nominal figure per head for those receiving citizenship status at each ceremony, this figure was increased in February 2021.

Each family group (or individual) attending can also bring up to two guests to join them in celebrating this significant moment in their lives.

More information regarding citizenship ceremonies can be found on the Governments website [here](#) and also on the Councils website [here](#).

The table below provides further detail into the ceremonies held between 2020 to 2022, please note:

- Figures are GST exclusive
- The attendance figures below do not include any invited guests that an individual or family group receiving citizenship may choose to invite

- Financial information provided below relating to the total cost of organising the ceremonies does not include staff time. The Council does not hold this information as staff are salaried, we do not record the number of hours spent on the varying areas of their roles. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
- Section 7 of the [Citizenship Regulations 2002](#) requires applicants for the grant of citizenship to take the oath or affirmation at a public ceremony. However, during the 2020 period, the oath was suspended due to the impact of COVID-19 in the community. Recognition Ceremonies were held in their place and certificates were posted out to applicants.

	2020				2021			2022			
	Recogn. Ceremonies				Feb	April	May	Sep	Nov		Dec
	Aug	Oct	Nov	Dec	Feb	April	May	Sep	Nov	Dec	
	5th	7th	10th	9th	10th	27th	18th	28th	21st	29th	8th
The number of people who received their citizenship certification	92	129	87	98	112	75	56	116	119	123	120
The number of council staff who attended the event	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	6	6	6	6
The number of councillors who attended the event	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	2
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	\$2,268	\$1,766	\$2,423	\$2,162	-\$197	\$833	\$1,643	\$3,277	\$4,033	\$3,761	\$4,075
The location of the citizenship ceremony	Te Papa										
The number of local or central government staff who were not working for your council, but were working for another govt. authority	3-4	3-4			3-4			4	4	2	4

### Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant  
**Official Information**