

24 March 2023



Kia ora,

Ratepayers Report

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 31 January 2023. Please find below the information requested, followed by our response to each:

I request the following information for the **2021/22 Financial Year** (Please use **GST inclusive** figures where applicable):

1. Average residential rates

- a. The average residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average residential costs = $(X + Y) / Z$.
 - Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
 - X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;
 - Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and
 - Z is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).

Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

Average Residential Costs	F2021/2022
average residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average residential costs = $(X + Y) / Z$	\$ 2,972
X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units	\$ 210,041,541
Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and	\$ 13,048,739

Z is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).	75,057
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2. Average non-residential rates

a. The average non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z.**

- Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
 - X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;
 - Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and
 - Z is the number of rating units except those defined as residential* (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).

Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example, retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

***Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 2021/2022 Financial Year.**

Average Non- Residential Costs	F2021/2022
average non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z.	\$ 32,616
X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;	\$ 148,901,002
Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and	\$ 19,530,495
Z is the number of rating units except those defined as residential* (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).	5,164

3. Personnel

- a. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
- b. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations (CCO's).
- c. If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations.

- d. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
- e. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

Staff Numbers F2021/2022				
	Dismissed for poor performance	FTE number of staff employed by CCO's	Staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000	Staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000
The Council	0	1,539.7*	419	26
Karori Sanctuary Trust (Zealandia)	0	32	4	1
Wellington Zoo Trust	0	76.19	8	2
Wellington Cable Car Limited	0	15	2	1
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Limited (Wellington NZ)	0	97	18	4
Wellington Museums Trust (Experience Wellington)	0	83.26	10	1
Basin Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wellington Water	NA	267.9	88	6
		Total: 2,111.05		

*This is the number of FTE staff employed by the Council and can be found on page 142 of the Council's Annual Report found [here](#).

3.1. Management

1. The FTE number of managers employed. Please confirm the ratio of management to staff.

The information below includes all staff that have people leadership responsibility (managers and team leaders from Tier 1 to Tier 7) as of 30 June 2022.

	Staff Headcount	Staff FTE
Total Number of people leaders	320	316.71
Ratio Management to Staff	1:6	1:5

2. The average and median salary of a manager.

The average and median salaries are from data dated 30 June 2022.

Average: \$128,459.56
Median: \$122,356.00

3.2. Communications

1. The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.

To answer this question, we have provided the FTE of staff within the Communications and Engagement business unit, along those staff in the business that have a communications role, but don't report into the Communications and Engagement business unit.

Please note that the Communications and Engagement business unit is made up of the following teams.

- Creative and Brand
- Engagement
- Internal Communications
- Media
- Strategic Communications

As at 30 Jun 2022 there was a total of 41.73 FTE employed in the group outlined above.

2. The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.

The average and median salaries of the Councils Communications and Engagement team is below, the data is as of 30 June 2022.

Average: \$94,607.97
Median: \$87,500.00

3. Total expenditure on communications & marketing.

The Council's Communications and Engagement's operating expenses for FY21-22 were \$3,694,051

3.3. Consultants & contractors

1. Total expenditure on consultants and contractors.

2. Total number of consultants and contractors paid.

Currently, the data we hold is not detailed enough to capture which contracts are specifically for consultants and which are for contractors. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the ACT because the requested information does not exist.

However, the Council is finalising a new contract management system, which is soon to go live, and in the future will be able to record the information requested above as it accumulates data overtime.

3.4. Core services

- a. The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.
- b. The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.
- c. The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.

With respect to the FTE number of staff employed in questions against 3.4 above, the Council does not hold this information to the level of detail you seek. As staff are salaried, we do not record the number of hours spent on the varying areas of their roles, which includes regulatory work, assisting in work relating to local infrastructure, or when officers meet with customers face to face as and when required.

As such, this part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA.

However, information held in the Council's [Annual Report](#) may be of interest to you. Specifically, page 142 in the above link, which provides a broader breakdown of the FTE of staff in each respective council group, including Infrastructure and Delivery and Customer and Community.

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

Audit and Risk Oversight	F2021/2022
a. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?	Seven with one further external member to be appointed.
b. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?	Yes, there is currently one independent member of the committee, and a further external member to be appointed.
c. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?	Yes.
d. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?	No.
e. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?	No, we have one member who is a chartered accountant but does not hold a practising certificate.
f. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?	Yes, political neutrality is explicitly covered in our staff Code of Conduct.

5. Payments to third parties

- a. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.
- b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.
- c. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.

Payments made to third parties F2021/2022			
	A. (Chamber of Commerce)	B. (Local Government NZ)	C. (NZ Society of Local Government Managers)
The Council	\$ 16,675.00	\$335,771.41	\$ 50,617.66
Karori Sanctuary Trust (Zealandia)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wellington Zoo Trust	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wellington Cable Car Limited	\$4,049.15	N/A	N/A
Wellington Waterfront Limited	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Limited (Wellington NZ)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wellington Museums Trust (Experience Wellington)	\$2,212.60	N/A	N/A
Basin Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wellington Water	\$,3966.35	N/A	N/A

6. Debt

1. Net debt as a percent of rates income

Net Debt % of Rates Income	F2021/2022
2022 Rates Debt including water	\$26.244m
2022 Rates Income	\$388.176m
\$388 176 Percentage	6.8%

Please note: The above figures are from the Annual Report excluding GST. This includes general rates, targeted rates, metered water supply, penalties, and adjustments.

2. The dollar amount of debt per rating unit

\$ Amount of Debt per Rating Unit	F2021/2022
2022 Rates Debt	\$26.244m
Rating unit (Total)	10,532
\$ Amount per unit	\$2,491.83

3. The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit

Interest is not charged on rates, in particular rate arrears; therefore, this part of your request has been refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA because the requested information does not exist. A 10% penalty is added to any amount of the current instalment remaining unpaid after the due date. An additional charge of 10% is added on 1 July and 1 January to rates that remain unpaid from previous years.

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.

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