

3 June 2025

File Ref: IRC-8199

7)(2)(a)

Lesbian Action for Visibility Aotearoa (LAVA)
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Tēnā koe 7)(2)(a)

Thank you for your email dated 26 March 2025 to Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information in relation to Council grants to Gender Minorities Aotearoa (GMA):

1. *What are WCC's guidelines and process for approving funding to groups and organisations?*
2. *How many groups applied for funding from that fund in the 2022, 2023 & 2024 funding rounds, and how many were successful?*
3. *How much money in total was distributed in those funding rounds?*
4. *Which fund was the Gender Minorities on-line course funding disbursed from?*
5. *What were WCC's reasons for supporting this funding application from Gender Minorities Aotearoa?*
6. *What documentary evidence is there that supports that Gender Minorities Aotearoa's applications met the criteria for that fund?*
7. *What specific benefit was the on-line course seen to be bringing to Wellingtonians?*
8. *How many Councillors were present when this matter was discussed?*
9. *How many Councillors were present when the decision to fund was made?*
10. *In the past 20 years has WCC ever funded a sex and relationships advice course for any other group?*
11. *Does WCC have a process for monitoring the impact of funded programmes?*
12. *What is that process and has it been followed to date*

Specific to the Transgender Guide to Sex and Relationships on-line course

13. *What information does WCC have about the demographic profile of course participants?*
14. *What information does WCC have about the outcomes of this course?*
15. *What research is conducted to ensure that the groups funded are not intolerant and anti-democratic towards other groups in the community?*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

Background Information

Prior to answering your questions raised, I'd like to take the opportunity to provide some background information and clarification in relation to the narrative within your request for information.

Wellington City Council provides operational funding to GMA to support their core services, including peer support, social work, and counselling.

We did not fund the development of the online guide to sex and relationships. In 2021, we funded the creation of six educational resources as part of our sexual violence prevention work. These resources focused on consent, active listening, healthy relationships, and supporting survivors, and were later incorporated into the course you are referring to. However, the course you are referring to was

developed with separate funding from Te Puna Aonui (DIA's sexual violence prevention fund), not Council funding.

LGBTQIA+ people are an important part of Wellington's diverse community. Like many other community groups, GMA receives funding to provide essential services, advocacy, and resources. We support a wide range of organisations that help different communities across the city, ensuring everyone has access to the support they need. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming city for all.

Question 1 - What are WCC's guidelines and process for approving funding to groups and organisations?

This information is publicly available on the Council's website via the below links:

- Information about our funding can be found [here](#), which includes:
 - What we fund
 - Our funding priorities
 - Our funding principles
- The following webpage provides information on how funding decisions are made [here](#).

Question 2 - How many groups applied for funding from that fund in the 2022, 2023 & 2024 funding rounds, and how many were successful?

We have interpreted this part of your request where you have referenced "funding from that fund" as the wellbeing area the grants for GMA were received from. GMA have been supported through the Social and Recreation Fund.

Funds administered by the Council are categorised by wellbeing area; these are listed on the following webpage [here](#). Past allocations from the Social and Recreation Fund can be found [here](#).

Question 3 - How much money in total was distributed in those funding rounds?

The table below shows the total amount of funding allocated through the Social and Recreation Fund for each financial year:

	2022	2023	2024
Grants	\$499,389	\$308,456	\$422,961
Multi year	\$4,727,364	\$3,700,064	\$3,587,808
Total	\$5,226,753	\$4,008,520	\$4,010,769

One-off Grants are typically allocated via three funding rounds per financial year; allocations for each funding round are listed within the relevant Agenda item for the Grants subcommittee. In addition, the allocations are listed on each funding webpage within the link provided to you in response to question two.

Question 4 & 5 - Which fund was the Gender Minorities on-line course funding disbursed from? What were WCC's reasons for supporting this funding application from Gender Minorities Aotearoa?

As referenced within the 'background information', this course was not funded by the Council.

The decision to fund the creation of six educational resources referenced in the background information through the [Social and Recreation Fund](#) from 2022 onwards was made by the Council Grants subcommittee on 25 May 2022. The agenda and minutes for this meeting are available on the Council website [here](#).

Recommendations for funding through the Social and Recreation Fund are detailed in item 2.7 via the agenda link above, alongside the link to the Social Recreation Fund above which provides more detail about this fund, including its priorities (criteria).

Question 6 - *What documentary evidence is there that supports that Gender Minorities Aotearoa's applications met the criteria for that fund?*

In assessing applications for funding, Council Officers take into account the following details:

- Strategic alignment between the initiative and the Council's strategies and strategic priorities, particularly the [Social Wellbeing Framework](#),
- The need for the proposed service and the way it compliments existing services or activities
- The intended outcomes or benefits as well as the implications of the proposed service being partly funded or not funded.

In the case of GMA's application for the courses referenced in the 'background information' section, the Council determined that the transgender community experiences ongoing discrimination through the health, housing and social service sectors with a clear need for an advocacy service. This aligns with the main concepts within the framework linked above which includes:

- Inclusivity - Grants that support inclusiveness as well as individual community groups.
- Health - Community grants to improve mental health and wellbeing, and opportunities for vulnerable groups.
- Well housed - Safe, healthy and accessible housing and wrap-around support for those experiencing homelessness.

Question 7 - *What specific benefit was the on-line course seen to be bringing to Wellingtonians?*

As referenced within the 'background information', the Council did not fund the course you have referred to in your request for information.

Question 8 and 9 - *How many Councillors were present when this matter was discussed and How many Councillors were present when the decision to fund was made?*

Six Councillors were present at the meeting of the Grants subcommittee when GMA's funding was approved on 24 May 2022, noting again that this funding was not provided for the course your request for information refers to.

- The minutes from that meeting can be accessed [here](#).

Question 10 - *In the past 20 years has WCC ever funded a sex and relationships advice course for any other group?*

The data we hold is limited to the past 15 years, therefore this part of your request has been refused under 17(g) of the LGOIMA as the information requested is not held in order to answer your question in full.

However, I can confirm that over the past 15 years a total of two programmes and initiatives have been coordinated through the Sexual Violence Prevention Plan, funded via the [Social and Recreation Fund](#), in relation to 'advice courses' for the rainbow community.

More information about the Sexual Violence Prevention Action Plan can be found [here](#).

Question 11 and 12 - *Does WCC have a process for monitoring the impact of funded programmes and what is that process, has it been followed to date?*

In terms of reporting, GMA are one of the organisations on our higher level of engagement as outlined in the Relationship Management Framework, referenced on our website [here](#).

The Relationship Management Framework has three main parts: a set of criteria to define the level of engagement required between Council and the funded organisations; consistent levels of engagement and reporting; and a clear escalation process when needed.

This means that GMA have an assigned Relationship Manager (RM), who provides a report twice during the year and have two face-to-face meetings on site where the RM and a Funding Advisor run through a set of questions relating to the work they do, the performance against funded activity, and other relevant information.

I can confirm the process outlined above has been followed to-date.

Question 13 and 14 - *What information does WCC have about the demographic profile of course participants and What information does WCC have about the outcomes of this course?*

As this course was not directly funded by the Council this part of your request has been refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA as the information requested is not held.

Question 15 - *What research is conducted to ensure that the groups funded are not intolerant and anti-democratic towards other groups in the community?*

No specific research is conducted to assess whether funded groups are intolerant or anti-democratic. However, all initiatives receiving funding must align with the council's strategic priorities, including our vision for Pōneke as a creative capital where people and nature thrive. This alignment inherently implies that funded groups should foster inclusivity and uphold democratic values within the community.

You have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(1) of the LGOIMA, to request an investigation and review of the Council's decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you require further information, please contact official.information@wcc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



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