

27 June 2025

File Ref: IRC-8573

s7(2)(a)
s7(2)(a) @gmail.com

Tēnā koe s7(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 7 June 2025 to Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting information regarding usage of Wellington City Libraries. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Please find my response below.

1. *The number of visitors to each of the libraries in Wellington, broken down by year, for the past 10 years.*

Please see attached, as **Appendix 01** to my response, tables showing the number of visitors to Wellington City Council managed libraries, for the financial years 2014-15 to 2023-24.

Across the ten years, a number of factors have impacted on the visitors (and book loans) such as closures or restrictions on services due to COVID-19, as well as closures for earthquakes in 2016. The most obvious example of this is the closure of the Central Library in March 2019, and the subsequent temporary central city branches that were established as a result. Another example is the Johnsonville branch that moved from a smaller premises on Broderick Road in 2019, to reopen at the Waitohi Hub with a significantly increased collection and space.

2. *The number of books borrowed in each of the libraries in Wellington, broken down by year, for the past 10 years.*

Please see attached, as **Appendix 02** to my response, tables showing the number of books issued by Wellington City Council managed libraries, for the financial years 2014-15 to 2023-24.

The books borrowed per branch relate to the location where the customer borrowed the book, rather than the holding branch of the book. Central Library book issues (following the closure of the building) relate to items issued directly from our Collection and Distribution Centre, such as items borrowed by during our Open Days, or customers wishing to have books couriered directly to their home.

3. *The number of people enrolled with libraries in Wellington, broken down by year, for the past 10 years.*

Please see attached, as **Appendix 03** to my response, a table showing the number of people enrolled with libraries in Wellington for the financial years 2014-15 to 2023-24.

During 2022-23, a review of the database was conducted, and details of customers who had not used the library for more than six years were removed from the database.

4. *The amount of money the Wellington City Council has allocated to libraries, broken down by year, for the past 10 years for the purchasing of books (i.e. not building expenditure).*

Please see attached, as **Appendix 04** to my response, a table showing the amount of money the Council has allocated to Libraries for the purchase of books, for the financial years 2014-15 to 2023-24.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dm. B', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Danika Morris-Brown
Senior Advisor Official Information
Official Information & Privacy
Wellington City Council

Appendix 01 – Number of physical visits at Wellington City Council owned libraries, over the last 10 financial years (1 July – 30 June)

Table 01

Financial Year	Te Awe (Brandon Street)	Arapaki (Manners Street)	He Matapihi (Molesworth Street)	Central	Brooklyn	Cummings Park
2014 – 15	-	-	-	1,199,909	34,865	68,925
2015 – 16	-	-	-	1,209,892	34,364	67,460
2016 – 17	-	-	-	1,061,808	31,407	70,252
2017 – 18	-	-	-	1,246,526	29,018	67,862
2018 – 19	-	-	-	864,400	26,468	66,211
2019 – 20	-	293,696	60,771	-	24,070	56,299
2020 – 21	336,685	178,423	44,437	-	24,606	55,021
2021 – 22	193,491	109,052	26,126	-	24,169	37,004
2022 – 23	510,352	120,118	39,896	-	24,530	40,769
2023 – 24	658,903	139,666	-	-	24,578	44,328

Table 02

Financial Year	Island Bay	Johnsonville	Karori	Khandallah	Kilbirnie	Miramar
2014 – 15	84,299	115,524	190,806	58,734	145,240	96,649
2015 – 16	63,843	107,168	211,854	55,791	141,867	89,677
2016 – 17	70,327	125,634	254,125	54,375	157,800	83,498
2017 – 18	65,965	126,983	370,023	60,660	152,005	76,799
2018 – 19	67,099	135,866	360,123	55,395	113,150	89,227
2019 – 20	56,628	154,191	203,980	44,754	142,587	74,739
2020 – 21	62,083	314,724	195,556	44,965	136,548	71,256
2021 – 22	31,937	263,003	115,970	26,813	97,099	50,713
2022 – 23	37,555	392,654	121,500	32,903	121,940	65,271
2023 – 24	41,151	458,284	144,457	33,451	135,632	64,789

Table 03

Financial Year	Newtown	Tawa	Wadestown
2014 – 15	151,872	103,739	25,472
2015 – 16	133,035	108,307	25,151
2016 – 17	120,573	107,884	21,872
2017 – 18	115,383	108,513	20,981
2018 – 19	119,076	97,057	26,931
2019 – 20	172,436	80,025	25,556
2020 – 21	112,734	85,750	28,987
2021 – 22	70,154	53,649	16,191
2022 – 23	87,902	72,518	17,214
2023 – 24	91,578	82,488	18,724

Appendix 02 - Number of books issued by Wellington City Council owned libraries, over the last 10 financial years (1 July – 30 June)

Table 01

Financial Year	Te Awe (Brandon Street)	Arapaki (Manners Street)	He Matapihi (Molesworth Street)	Central	Books at Home*	Renewals**
2014 – 15	-	-	-	798,165	8,016	251,090
2015 – 16	-	-	-	802,208	7,774	274,553
2016 – 17	-	-	-	744,506	8,254	269,050
2017 – 18	-	-	-	741,009	7,115	272,280
2018 – 19	-	12,546	-	522,080	5,361	291,866
2019 – 20	-	133,662	7,443	6,897	6,467	172,956
2020 – 21	169,915	82,824	17,039	9,806	4,679	250,817
2021 – 22	158,940	67,100	15,757	10,381	4,642	286,588
2022 – 23	185,955	66,596	16,274	9,288	4,094	242,199
2023 – 24	224,268	68,300	569	10,587	4,046	337,491

* Books at Home is a service that is treated as its own location. This is a service for customers who cannot physically visit libraries and/or select their items. You can read more information about it here: [Kiritaki Noho Whare | Books at Home](#)

** Renewals is a reissue, meaning a new loan but to the same borrower

Table 02

Financial Year	Brooklyn	Cummings Park	Island Bay	Johnsonville	Karori	Khandallah
2014 – 15	46,210	97,070	81,901	173,008	199,191	50,651
2015 – 16	52,855	96,352	85,439	181,092	209,211	51,256
2016 – 17	50,011	93,610	73,636	175,839	199,304	45,626
2017 – 18	53,488	94,919	73,523	172,912	194,266	46,546
2018 – 19	51,197	95,508	69,531	182,753	207,032	44,464
2019 – 20	52,654	90,560	61,425	272,490	206,786	37,110
2020 – 21	59,014	83,601	72,722	390,462	211,481	38,581
2021 – 22	51,384	74,870	60,962	328,154	186,453	34,441
2022 – 23	48,766	72,737	61,663	341,893	183,868	38,865
2023 – 24	50,175	72,747	64,639	358,705	191,018	41,197

Table 03

Financial Year	Kilbirnie	Miramar	Newtown	Tawa	Wadestown
2014 – 15	165,599	113,395	66,448	110,139	33,127
2015 – 16	170,064	111,415	58,306	115,495	33,277
2016 – 17	161,801	105,377	68,071	115,631	32,473
2017 – 18	162,853	102,351	63,415	114,059	29,134
2018 – 19	176,620	106,034	74,436	113,448	30,332
2019 – 20	194,059	90,422	84,049	94,598	31,712
2020 – 21	191,480	111,652	84,290	102,124	34,461
2021 – 22	164,851	94,726	69,458	93,680	33,953
2022 – 23	160,756	94,959	75,235	102,843	32,191
2023 – 24	172,436	88,446	80,820	112,003	31,993

Appendix 03 – Number of people enrolled with libraries in Wellington, over the last 10 financial years (1 July – 30 June)

Financial Year	Library Card Holders
2014 – 15	147,138
2015 – 16	161,741
2016 – 17	171,276
2017 – 18	184,154
2018 – 19	192,578
2019 – 20	199,895
2020 – 21	206,324
2021 – 22	214,259
2022 – 23	178,192
2023 – 24	186,781

Appendix 04 – The amount of money allocated to libraries for book purchases, by Wellington City Council, over the last 10 financial years (1 July – 30 June)

Financial Year	Money allocated for books
2014 – 15	\$1,502,078
2015 – 16	\$1,361,241
2016 – 17	\$1,559,433
2017 – 18	\$1,540,433
2018 – 19	\$1,355,757
2019 – 20	\$1,267,669
2020 – 21	\$1,266,669
2021 – 22	\$1,492,298
2022 – 23	\$1,614,006
2023 – 24	\$1,799,543