

Reference Number: 2023/932

1 March 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 31 January 2023. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

#### 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:
    - o **X** is the total of all rates ( general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;
    - o **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
    - o **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)

The average residential costs of rates and other council charges for the 2021/22 financial year was \$2,656.

X = \$34,357,961

Y = \$190,361

Z = 13,010

Note that the numbers provided are exclusive of GST. Council's 2021/22 Annual Report is currently being audited.

## 2. Average non-residential rates

- b. 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:
    - o **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential\*;
    - o **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
    - o **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)

The average non-residential costs of rates and other council charges for the 2021/22 financial year was \$1,751.

X = \$7,531,039

Y = \$1,225,776

Z = 5,001

Note that the numbers provided are exclusive of GST.

Council's 2021/22 Annual Report is currently being audited.

## 3. Personnel

- a. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
- This information is withheld in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect individual privacy.
- b. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.
- Not applicable.
- c. If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations.
- The total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations is 206. This does not include casual staff or contractors.
- d. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
- 49 staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receive remuneration over \$100,000. This does not include casual staff or contractors.
- e. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.
- 6 staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receive remuneration over \$200,000. This does not include casual staff or contractors.

### 3.1. Management

1. The FTE number of managers employed. Please confirm the ratio of management to staff.  
42 people leader roles, which includes supervisors, team leaders and managers of a total of 266 staff. This includes fixed term, part time and casual employees. The ratio is 1:16.
2. The average and median salary of a manager.  
Average \$132,035  
Median \$116,186

### 3.2. Communications

1. The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.  
7.48 FTE
2. The average and median salary of communications and marketing staff.  
Average \$83,420.25  
Median \$78,000
3. Total expenditure on communications & marketing.  
Total expenditure on communications and marketing (excluding overheads) for 2021/22 was \$741,787 (excluding GST).

### 3.3. Consultants & contractors

1. Total expenditure on consultant and contractors.  
We deemed consultants and contractors as those providing professional services and asset maintenance contract work to the Council and as such this was reported on Council's Annual Report and totalled to \$25,900,000 (excluding GST).
2. Total number of consultants and contractors paid.  
We are not able to provide the number of consultants and contractors paid as we track the spending based on contract and outcomes, rather than the number of consultants and contractors working on the job.

### 3.4. Core services

1. The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.  
24 FTE.

2. The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.

39.86 FTE.

3. The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.

68.43 FTE – does not include casuals.  
104 roles including casuals.

#### **4. Audit and Risk Oversight**

- a. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?

Seven, including two independent members.

- b. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?

Yes.

- c. Is the chair of the Committee an independent member?

No.

- d. Does the council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?

No, however our Chair is a Councillor who is a lawyer with a current certificate.

- e. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?

Yes.

- f. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?

Yes.

#### **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.

There were no payments made by Council to any Chamber of Commerce in the 2021/22 financial year.

- b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.

Payment made by the Council to Local Government New Zealand in the 2021/22 financial year was \$60,182.15 including GST. Council's 2021/22 Annual Report is currently being audited.

- 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.

Payment made by the Council to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers in the 2021/22 financial year was \$22,139.51 including GST. Council's 2021/22 Annual Report is currently being audited.

## 6. Debt

1. Net debt as a percent of rates income.

Net debt as a percent of rates income (excluding GST) as at 30 June 2022 was 275%  
Council's 2021/22 Annual Report is currently being audited.

2. The dollar amount of debt per rating unit.

The dollar amount of net debt per rating unit for 2021/22 financial year was \$6,399.  
Council's 2021/22 Annual Report is currently being audited.

3. The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit.

The dollar amount of interest expense per rating unit for 2021/22 financial year was \$171.45.  
Council's 2021/22 Annual Report is currently being audited.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or free phone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact the LGOIMA Officer on [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely



Monique Davidson  
**Chief Executive**