

LGOIMA Reference – 2021/767

1 September 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 23/08/2021. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

I have received your latest rates notice with cover letter mentioning the 7.8% rates increase and justifying this be reference to operational expenditure. To be specific, it is pointed out that HDCs rates are the 4th lowest nationally for operational expenditure.

The link below is to the annual ratepayer's report that is completed by the NZ Taxpayers' Union as a benchmarking exercise. In this report, it lists Horowhenua District Council as 4th lowest for total operating expenditure per household. <https://www.ratepayersreport.nz/>

Can you please advise:

1. How HDCs **capital expenditure** compares nationally, a ranked position as was provided for operational expenditure would be appreciated? and,
2. How HDCs **total expenditure** compares nationally, a ranked position as was provided for operational expenditure would be appreciated?

In regards to questions 1 and 2, we do not collect this information nationally however, the DIA do collect and compare information across New Zealand for all councils. Please refer to the link below to find the relevant information: https://www.localcouncils.govt.nz/lqip.nsf/wpg_URL/Resources-Download-Data-Local-authority-long-term-plans

3. Average rates increases per annum for the last 5 years expressed as a percentage as per the average 7.8% increase as per your rates letter.

| |
|------------------|
| 2016/17 - 5.4% |
| 2017/18 - 5.6%, |
| 2018/19 - 5.6% |
| 2019/20 - 4.6% |
| 2020/21 - (1.8%) |

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 06 366 0999 or email - LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Lisa Slade
Executive Sponsor - LGOIMA