

LGOIMA reference – 2022/860

30 May 2022

Email 

Dear Sir/Madam

### Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 03/05/2022. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

This is a request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Please use **GST inclusive** figures where applicable.

I request the following information for the **2020/21 Financial Year**:

#### 1. Average residential rates

- a. The average **residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average residential costs = (X + Y) / Z. - \$2,425**
  - 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; - **\$31,014,994**
    - 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 - **\$180,942**
    - 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). – **12,862**
  - 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 2020/21 financial year was \$2,425.

#### 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. - **\$1,636**
  - 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\*; - **\$7,056,337**
- 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 - **\$1,033,061**
- 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). – **4,945**
- 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 2020/2021 Financial Year.**

- The average non-residential costs of rates and other council charges for the 2020/21 financial year was \$1,636.

### 3. Personnel

- a. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
  - This is confidential information and will not be disclosed.
- b. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.
  - Not applicable.
- c. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
  - 44 staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration over \$100,000. This does not include contracted staff.
- d. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.
  - 5 staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration over \$200,000. This does not include contracted staff.

### 4. Audit and Risk Oversight

- a. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?
  - 13 members - the Mayor, 10 councillors and 2 independent members
- b. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?
  - Yes, 2 members are independent

- 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
- 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.
  - Payment made by the Council to Manawatu Chamber of Commerce Incorporated in the 2020/21 financial year was \$339.25 including GST.
- 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 2020/21 financial year was \$57,021.29 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.
  - Payment made by the Council to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers in the 2020/21 financial year was \$32,732.89 including GST.

You are entitled to seek a review by the Office of the Ombudsman regarding the withheld information. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 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 06 366 0999 or email - [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Slade  
**Executive Sponsor - LGOIMA**