

Reference Number: 2023/929

7 February 2023

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 26 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. The hourly rate you pay for chairs and members of hearing panels. If it's not a set rate, the range you pay would be helpful.**
- 2. Is this rate set by the council (i.e. you pay all commissioners the same set rate) or does each commissioner charge their own rates?**
- 3. Do you pay for travel time? This is the time spent driving to a hearing venue or site visit. I think all council's pay mileage, but we don't pay travel time so would like to know if others do.**
- 4. Do you pay accommodation for out of town commissioners?**
- 5. Do you pay for flights for any commissioners that need to fly to your city/town?**
- 6. Do you on charge costs like accommodation and flights to the applicant?**

Horowhenua District Council (HDC) does not have a policy, set fee or fee range in which we pay independent commissioners for hearings panels for resource consent and plan change hearings.

As a smaller council, we do not have set hearing commissioners. Instead we go out to market for independent hearing members as and when required. As part of that process, an assessment is undertaken that considers the expertise available, hourly rate and any other costs associated, i.e. travel and accommodation.

If there are associated costs for travel and accommodation then, where appropriate, HDC will cover these costs.

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 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

Yours sincerely



Steve McTaylor-Biggs
Executive Sponsor