

Reference Number: 2025/1258

16 July 2025

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe | Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 2 July 2025 requesting, under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), information relating to consultancy fees paid by Horowhenua District Council for each of the last five completed financial years (FY 2019/20 to FY 2023/24), and the current financial year to date. Please see below a response to each part of your request.

Total consultancy expenditure per year

Total amount spent on external consultants (excluding contractors or temporary staff treated as employees).

Breakdown of consultancy expenditure by department or business unit per year.

Detailed project-level breakdown for each consultancy engagement where the total fees paid were \$10,000 (excluding GST) or more:

For each project or engagement:

- ***Consultant or firm name***
- ***Project or engagement title/description***
- ***Total amount paid in consultancy fees***
- ***Council department or unit responsible***
- ***Procurement method used (e.g., open tender, panel, direct appointment)***
- ***Date(s) the work was undertaken and/or invoiced***

Whether the project the consultancy supported was:

- ***Implemented***
- ***Not implemented (scrapped/abandoned/deferred)***

If implemented:

-Has the project been completed?

-If not completed: What is the current status, and what are the reasons for delay or non-completion?

Cost recoveries

-Where applicable, provide the total amount recovered or reimbursed from third parties (e.g., Waka Kotahi/NZTA, developers, government departments) to offset consultancy costs, listed per year.

While we understand the data you're requesting, as a Council, we do not categorise and report at this level.

We do not hold the information in the manner in which you are requesting it, and the LGOIMA does not require the Council to create new information to fulfill a request if it doesn't already exist in the required format.

We do, however, have a category within our annual report called Professional Services, which we report for operational expenditure, but not capital. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to; External Legal Services, Individual Contractors, Temporary Staff, Audits and other specialist services. These financial totals are included within our Annual Report and quarterly Operational Performance Report.

For more information, please refer to the following links.

[2019/20](#) – page 33

[2020/21](#) – page 31

[2021/22](#) – page 166

[2022/23](#) – page 198

[2023/24](#) – page 168

Please contact us if you would like more information on this category.

Council policy or guidance documents

Please provide any current Council policy, guideline, or internal procedure that:

- Defines or distinguishes "consultant" vs "contractor"***
- Governs the procurement or use of external consultants***

Please find links to the [Procurement Policy](#), [Procurement Strategy](#), and the [Organisation Performance Report](#).

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information on how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by freephone on 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 would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Jacinta Straker (Group Manager Organisation Performance) on jacintas@horowhenua.govt.nz, or LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi | Best regards



Monique Davidson
Chief Executive