

1 October 2020

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

**Response - Official Information Request**

I refer to your request for information received on 16/09/2020. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

I request the following information for the **2018/2019 Financial Year**:

**1. Audit and Risk Oversight**

- a. The number of members on the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent).
- b. The number of elected officials on the Committee.
- c. The number of independent members on the Committee.
- d. The number of lawyers (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee.
- e. The number of chartered accountants (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee.
- f. Whether the chair of the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee is an independent member.
- g. Whether the Council has an election year protocol requiring Council Staff to act in a politically neutral or impartial manner.
- h. Whether the Council has a code of conduct (above and beyond an election year protocol) requiring Council staff to act in a politically neutral or impartial manner.

<p><b>1. Audit and Risk Oversight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The number of members on the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent).</li> <li>b. The number of elected officials on the Committee.</li> <li>c. The number of independent members on the Committee.</li> <li>d. The number of lawyers (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee.</li> <li>e. The number of chartered accountants (with a current practising certificate) on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Council’s Finance, Audit &amp; Risk Subcommittee has Twelve (12) members.</li> <li>b) Eleven (11)</li> <li>c) One (1) independent member (the Chair).</li> <li>d) Nil.</li> <li>e) Nil.</li> </ul>
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<p>the Committee.</p> <p><b>f.</b> Whether the chair of the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee is an independent member.</p> <p><b>g.</b> Whether the Council has an election year protocol requiring <u>Council Staff</u> to act in a politically neutral or impartial manner.</p> <p><b>h.</b> Whether the Council has a code of conduct (above and beyond an election year protocol) requiring <u>Council staff</u> to act in a politically neutral or impartial manner.</p>	<p><b>f)</b> The Chair is an independent member.</p> <p><b>g)</b> Yes (as previously supplied).</p> <p><b>h)</b> Yes (as previously supplied).</p>
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**2. Payments to third parties**

- a.** The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce.
- b.** The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).
- c.** The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).

<p><b>2. Payments to third parties</b></p> <p><b>a.</b> The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p><b>b.</b> The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).</p> <p><b>c.</b> The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).</p>	<p><b>a)</b> \$0</p> <p><b>b)</b> \$41,246.</p> <p><b>c)</b> \$39,731.</p>
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**3. Average non-residential costs:**

- a.** 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, Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
  - **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential\*;

- **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
- **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).

**\*Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates (as per request sent on 28 August 2020) so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 2018/2019 Financial Year.**

<p><b>3. Average non-residential costs:</b></p> <p>a. The average non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where <b>average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z</b>. Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, Z) are disclosed in the response, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>X</b> is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;</li> <li>• <b>Y</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Z</b> 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).</li> </ul>	<p>a) 1575</p> <p>\$9,214,468</p> <p>\$627,342</p> <p>6247</p>
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If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact Nicki Brady, Group Manager Communities, Partnerships and Business on 06 366 0999 or email - [nickib@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:nickib@horowhenua.govt.nz)

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.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Slade  
**Executive Sponsor - LGOIMA**