

RURAL CITY LIVING



Response to LGOIMA request from [REDACTED]

11 January 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 10 December in which you requested information on a wide variety of topics and issues.

Below are responses from our interim Chief Executive Stephen Parry and several staff in bold.

Topic A - Ombudsman's report 'Open for Business' dated October 2023

- 1) what steps has your territorial authority taken in regards to the Ombudsman's report?
- 2) what actions/motions have been passed by your territorial authority in response to the Ombudsman's report?
- 3) what steps are still under consideration?
- 4) what has or will the total cost been of any changes?

An extract from the minutes of the Council's meeting on Tuesday 31 October is attached. You are also able to read the report from our interim Chief Executive present to the 31 October meeting on our website. [Here is the link](#)

Topic B - costs relating to councillors interactions

- 1) How much has your territorial authority budgeted in each of the last 3 years for any costs related to councillor conduct. This could include individual conduct or between other councillors, mayor/chair or Chief Executive. This may include mediation, legal fees, legal investigations and similar.

2022/23 - \$Nil

2021/22 - \$Nil

2020/21 - \$Nil

- 2) How much has your territorial authority spent in each of the last 3 financial years for any costs related to councillor conduct. This could include individual conduct or between other councillors, mayor/chair or Chief Executive. This may include mediation, legal fees, legal investigations and similar.

2022/23 - \$110,839

2021/22 - \$Nil

2020/21 \$Nil

Topic C - staffing numbers (as of 30 June 2023)

- 1) What is the full FTE staff number if your territorial authority was fully staffed? **111**
- 2) What is your current FTE staff number employed? **106**
- 3) What percentage of full FTE staff required is currently vacant? **Seven**
- 4) What percentage of the vacant positions are not being actively recruited to fill. Eg what percentage are currently remaining vacant? **We have one position we were not actively recruiting for at the time of responding.**
- 5) What effect will these vacancies have on the services your territorial authority delivers / can deliver? **No effect**

Topic D - senior leadership

- 1) Has your Chief Executive resigned, or a new CE been appointed in the last 3 years? **Our Chief Executive of 22 years resigned earlier this year, effective 31 October. However, the Council voted to retain Mr Parry as interim CEO until his replacement is appointed.**
- 2) How many of your Tier Two leaders resigned, or a new leader been appointed in the last 3 years? **Only three of our Tier Two staff have resigned in the last three years.**
- 3) Have your territorial authority had a staff restructure implemented, considered by senior leadership or consulted in in the last 3 years. This includes a restructure of the whole territorial authority, or one or more department. **Yes – the Council has had a restructure of its senior leadership, which came into effect in 2022. The restructure was the result of consultation with senior staff, the affected activities and direct reports. The result was the introduction of five general managers to oversee:**
 - **critical services,**
 - **community lifestyle services,**
 - **people and culture,**
 - **corporate support and**
 - **communications and customer support.**

Topic E – contractors

- 1) How much was budgeted by your territorial authority in each of the last 3 years for external contractors?
- 2) How much was the budgeted amount as a percentage of total income for each of the last three years?
- 3) How much was spent by your territorial authority in each of the last 3 years for external contractors?
- 4) How much was the amount spent on contractors as a percentage of total income for each of the last three years?

Response to questions 1 – 4 of topic E are provided in the table below:

Topic E - Contractors	22/23 Budget	22/23 Actual	21/22 Budget	21/22 Actual	20/21 Budget	20/21 Actual
	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's
Contractors	18,094	19,377	19,833	16,832	21,167	14,153
Total Income	29,843	34,921	32,261	34,765	25,108	29,132
% Contractors to Income	61%	55%	61%	48%	84%	49%

Note: the contractors figures include contractors engaged to complete capital works, some of which was loan funded

5) Is your territorial authority's spend on contractors expected to increase this year because of staffing shortages.

We cannot predict what staff shortages we are going to have, or in what activity to know whether the work can be managed short term internally or require additional resource from outside the organisation.

6) Could the services contracted for be hired directly under the territorial authority?

Some services could have been provided in-house if the Council was able to recruit suitable staff. Many of our contractors are used in positions traditionally difficult to fill areas such as planning and IT.

7) What were the three companies, receiving the highest contractors spend in the last year?

For the year ended 30 June 2023, the top three companies receiving the highest spend were:

- **Signal Management Group Ltd: \$6,403,318.69 (a)**
- **Fulton Hogan Ltd: \$4,527,296.84 (b)**
- **Wilson Contractors (2003) Ltd: \$3,340,764.17 (c)**

Additional notes for clarity:

- (a) Signal Management Group Ltd project managed two significant capital work projects for the Council. The payments to Signal include payments to the various subcontractors on the projects.**
- (b) The payments to Fulton Hogan were for various 3Waters and Roading contracts.**
- (c) The payment to Wilson Contractors (2003) Ltd were substantially offset by income of \$2,476,347 received from section sales as part of a joint venture residential sub-division project known as Matai Ridge.**

If you are unsatisfied with the response, you are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsmen. You can find more information on its website <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz>

Kind regards



Sonia Gerken
GM Communications / Customer Support