

29 April 2025



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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, received by the Gore District Council on 27 March 2025, asking:

please advise why the rate payers have been paying exorbitant money for a Conflict Resolution Consultant from Christchurch over the last week or so?

To clarify, the Council did not contract a conflict resolution consultant, rather a situational safety and awareness training provider.

A workshop was provided to staff and elected members who engage with the public on situational safety and awareness. The cost per participant for this training was \$187.50 per attendee.

The outline of the training is explained below:

- *Public Interaction:* These roles often involve direct interaction with the public, which can sometimes be unpredictable. Training helps staff recognize and respond to potential threats or emergencies effectively.
- *Decision-Making:* Elected members and public-facing staff need to make quick, informed decisions in various situations. Situational awareness training enhances their ability to assess situations accurately and act appropriately.
- *Compliance and Safety:* Ensuring that staff are aware of safety protocols and compliance requirements helps protect both the individuals and the organization from legal and reputational risks.
- *Confidence and Preparedness:* Training boosts confidence and preparedness, enabling staff to handle challenging situations calmly and professionally.

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 www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact me on 03 209-0330.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Straith'.

Lornae Straith
General Manager Corporate Support / Chief Financial Officer