

## Response to LGOIMA from STUFF

20 March 2024

Dear Rachael

Thank you for the information request received by the Council on Thursday 14 March regarding recruiting a new chief executive. You asked for:

- The total cost paid to Brannigans for the recruitment of the new chief executive, including a breakdown of any travel or accommodation costs for council staff members, elected representatives and Brannigans staff members.
- Costs associated with interviews being held in Queenstown, including travel and/or accommodation for Brannigans and council staff or elected members, catering, room and facility hire.
- Any further costs incurred by the council relating to the recruitment process.

I sincerely hope you have sent similar LGOIMAs to other local authorities who have recruited a chief executive in the last year or two to ensure you provide your readers with context.

If not, I would suggest some may consider it a failure of your duty as a journalist to provide your readers with a fair and balanced article.

You also may care to contact LGNZ for more information about local government chief executive recruitment costs.

Gore District Mayor Ben Bell said the Council approved a budget of \$70,000 to recruit a new chief executive. This was the first time in 22 years that the Council had gone through such a detailed recruitment process for the CEO's position.

Recruitment agency Brannigans was chosen after a competitive process. It has successfully taken the Council through recruiting and appointing a new CEO under-budget.

Queenstown was chosen as the venue for the interviews for the following reasons:

- The cost of flights and variety of flight times were better than Invercargill.
- There were no rental car hire costs, which would have been the case if the interviews were held in Gore.

- The venue provided better privacy in terms of keeping the candidates separate.

The hire cost for the Hilton was only \$186 more than the Ascot, in Invercargill, food inclusive.

Elected members travelled to Queenstown and back in one day to save on accommodation costs.

Figures for the recruitment process (GST exclusive) are:

Recruitment agency fee	\$36,000
Hilton hire for interviews (food included)	\$1,403
Flights for candidates	\$9,804.40
Accommodation for candidates	\$1,117.87
Flights, accommodation, mileage for recruitment agency	\$4,198.92
Candidate assessments and checks	\$4,430
Van hire for elected members to travel to Queenstown	\$313
TOTAL (GST exclusive)	\$57,267.19

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