

Response to LGOMIA from NZ Taxpayer's Union

08 February 2024

To Whom It May Concern

In December the Union emailed the Council asking for information to assist with preparing its 2024 Ratepayers' Report for the 2022/23 financial year.

Our GM Corporate Support Lornae Straith has compiled the following for you (Please note the Council's response is on bold):

1. Average residential rates

- The average residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average residential costs = $(X + Y) / Z$.

Response: Average residential rate = $(11,820,757.13 + 1,486,048.98) / 4,448 = \$2,991.64$

2. Average non-residential rates

- The average non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average non-residential costs = $(X + Y) / Z$.

Response: Average non-residential rate = $(9,742,559.94 + 204,432.32) / 2,226 = \$4,468.55$

3. Personnel

- The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance - **0**.
- If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations - **N/A**
- If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed by the council, excluding council-controlled organisations - **106**
- The total number of staff (non-FTE, including casual staff) - **153**
- The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000 - **15**
- The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000 - **1**

3.1. Management

- The FTE number of managers employed - **16**
- The ratio of management to total staff numbers - **16/153 = 10%**
- The average and median salary of a manager - **Average salary = \$145,536.59 and Median salary is \$137,020.10**

3.2. Communications

The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed - **3 FTE**

The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff - **Decline to answer as small team and therefore identifiable (Privacy reasons)**

3.3. Consultants & contractors

Total expenditure on consultants and contractors. Please ensure that this includes CAPEX and OPEX spending.

Roading Maintenance	4,085,183	37.1%
Solid Waste	2,599,660	23.6%
District Plan	1,056,643	9.6%
	7,741,486	70.3%
Other contractors & consultants	3,270,630	29.7%
Total contractors and consultants	11,012,117	

Capital contractor & consultant spend = \$10,588,563

Total number of consultants and contractors paid. Please note that this refers to companies/entities, rather than total employees.

The Council's system does not collect the data on the classification of creditors. To obtain this information would require someone manually going through 2,920 creditors and identifying whether they were classified as a contractor or consultant.

3.4. Core services

- The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure - **19**
- The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions - **17 FTE**
- The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles – **35 FTE**

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

- How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)? - **9**
- Of those members, how many are elected and how many are independent of the council? - **1**
- Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member? - **No**
- Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee - **No**
- Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate or a full member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand) on the Committee? - **Yes**

- Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff? - **Yes**

5. Payments to third parties

The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST - **\$11,663.42**

The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST - **\$50,905.04**

The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST - **\$12,731.85**

(Please note this figure excludes transactions for webinars or conferences that may have been paid for by credit card. The information from credit card statements is not captured into the Council's finance system in a way that can separately identify the transactions. It would require someone to download each credit card statement by person by month to manually identify the transactions).

6. Debt

- Net debt (total for the council) as a percent of rates income - **224%**
- The dollar amount of debt per rating unit - **\$7,491.76**
- The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit - **\$283.04**

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