

Response to information request from [REDACTED]

17 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email last month asking for details about Gore District Mayor Ben Bell's spending since the election.

The Council General Manager Corporate Support Lornae Straith provides the following:

Expenses incurred by the Mayor from 8 October 2022 to 14 June 2023 total \$35,481.11 (GST exclusive). This is made up of:

Accommodation	\$4,168.68
Flights & Travel	\$5,756.49
Office Upgrade & Sundry Items	\$13,521.95
Post-election retreat	\$6,842.85
Conference fees	\$2,504.43
Food & Beverage	\$290.41
Mileage	\$1,040.40
Taxis	\$301.77

The Remuneration Authority allows for a mayor to have a vehicle provided as part of their remuneration package.

Mayor Bell has a vehicle and has 8.2% deducted annual from his remuneration to recognize the private benefit. The amount is set by the Remuneration Authority.

Mayoral Vehicle	\$66,413.90
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You can learn more about this on the Authority's website. Here is the link

<https://www.remauthority.govt.nz/local-government-elected-members/council-provided-vehicles/>

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