

Response to information request from Taxpayer's Union

2 August 2023

Dear Oliver

Thank you for your emails on 30 June asking for the following information

Staff working overseas

- How many employees does the council have working remotely from overseas?
- In each instance, please outline the salary grading for the employee and the location from which they are working.
- For each employee that is working overseas, please give a reason why this has been granted and whether this was signed off by (according to council rules) human resources and their manager.
- Please highlight how long each employee has been working form overseas.

The Gore District Council can advise you that we don't have any employees working remotely from overseas.

Flowers and water expenses

- Total expenditure on bottled water in 2022:
 - Please provide the total amount spent on bottled water, including the cost of procurement, delivery and any other associated expense.
- Total expenditure on flowers in 2022:
 - Please provide the total amount spent on flowers, including any cost related to procurement, arrangements and maintenance.
- Total expenditure on bottled water from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.
- Total expenditure on flowers from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.

If possible, I would appreciate a breakdown of the aforementioned expenditures by specific projects, programs, or categories within your department. This breakdown will aid in comprehending the context of these expenses and enable a more comprehensive analysis.

In the 2022-23 financial year the Council spent \$834.75 on flowers. These purchases were for staff bereavements, significant family trauma (illness), and long service recognition.

We do not itemise bottled water on our invoices therefore to provide information about how much is spent on bottled water would require our staff to manual check all invoices. To put that into context, time wise, we receive about 96,000 invoices a year.

The only obvious invoice for water is \$8.99 (GST incl) in January when a dozen small bottles were bought for the Councillor's tour of the district.

The Council does purchase bottles of water for resale at our aquatic centre. However, we prefer to encourage the use of reuseable drinking vessels. All our facilities – the library, visitor centre and multisports complex – have water dispensers for people with their own bottles. We also have water coolers for staff at our offices.

Please get back to me if there's anything else you require.

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