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## LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

<b>Request from:</b>	New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
<b>Information requested:</b>	Ratepayer Report
<b>Response from:</b>	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

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17 March 2020

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

Via Email: [report@ratepayers.nz](mailto:report@ratepayers.nz)

Dear New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

**Official information request for information for the 2019/20 Financial Year.**

I refer to your official information request dated 08 March 2021 for information for the 2019/20 Financial Year.

You have asked for the following information:

**1. Average residential rates**

- a. The average residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average residential costs =  $(X + Y) / Z$ .**
- Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
    - X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;
    - Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and
    - Z is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).
  - Please **do not** include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

Average residential rate - \$3,030.00

**2. Average non-residential rates**

- a. The average non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average non-residential costs =  $(X + Y) / Z$ .**
- Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
    - X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential\*;
    - Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential\* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and

- **Z is the number of rating units except those defined as residential\* (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).**
- **Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example, retail sales of Council rubbish bags).**

**\*Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 2019/2020 Financial Year.**

Average non-residential rate - \$6,353.00

### 3. Personnel

- a. **The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.**

Nil.

- b. **If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.**

The information relating to the CCO's has been transferred to Westland Holdings Ltd.

- c. **The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.**

The information relating to Council staff can be obtained from the Council's annual report which can be found on the Council website.

<https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Annual%20Report%202019-20%20%20-%2023.11.2020.pdf>

The information relating to the CCO's has been transferred to Westland Holdings Ltd.

- d. **The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.**

The information relating to Council staff can be obtained from the Council's annual report which can be found on the Council website.

<https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Annual%20Report%202019-20%20%20-%2023.11.2020.pdf>

The information relating to the CCO's has been transferred to Westland Holdings Ltd.

#### **4. Audit and Risk Oversight**

- a. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?**

Six.

- b. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?**

Yes.

- c. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?**

Yes.

- d. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?**

No.

- e. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?**

No.

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

Yes.

#### **5. Payments to third parties**

- a. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.**

Total payments made by the Council - Nil.

The information relating to the CCO's has been transferred to Westland Holdings Ltd.

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

Total payments made by the Council - \$54,788.91

The information relating to the CCO's has been transferred to Westland Holdings Ltd.

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

Total payments made by the Council - \$16,592.12

The information relating to the CCO's has been transferred to Westland Holdings Ltd.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

**Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.**

The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Senior Administration Assistant at [LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz), 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Simon Bastion** | Chief Executive

SB/MB