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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>	Monique Poirier – NZ Taxpayers’ Union
<b>Information requested:</b>	2019 Ratepayers’ Report Part 3
<b>Response from:</b>	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

21 September 2020

Monique Poirier

Via Email:

Dear Monique

**Official information – Information Request 2019 Ratepayers’ Report (territorial Authorities)**

I refer to your official information request dated 16 September 2020 seeking information on audit and risk oversight, payments to third parties and average non-residential costs.

You have asked for the following information:

**1. Audit and Risk Oversight**

**a. The number of members on the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent).**

There are 6 members on the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee.

**b. The number of elected officials on the Committee.**

3 Elected officials and 2 Iwi representatives.

**c. The number of independent members on the Committee.**

There is 1 independent member on the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee.

**d. The number of lawyers (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee.**

Nil.

**e. The number of chartered accountants (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee.**

There are 2 chartered accountants on the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee.

**f. Whether the chair of the Council’s Audit and Risk Committee is an independent member.**

Yes.

**g. Whether the Council has an election year protocol requiring Council Staff to act in a politically neutral or impartial manner.**

Yes.

- h. Whether the Council has a code of conduct (above and beyond an election year protocol) requiring Council staff to act in a politically neutral or impartial manner.**

Yes.

**2. Payments to third parties**

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

Nil payments made by Council.

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

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

\$37,538.91 made by Council.

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

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

\$17,554.47

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

**3. Average non-residential costs:**

- 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, 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).**

The average residential and average non-residential are unable to be distinguished separately. Below are the combined numbers.

X	\$14,775,445
Z	5680
Total	\$2601.31

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

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

Sincerely,



**Simon Bastion** | Chief Executive

SB/MB