

LGOIMA Response to STUFF

18 June 2024

Dear Rachael

In September last year, you filed a request for all correspondence relating to the resignation of or severance payment for then-Chief Executive Stephen Parry.

The Council declined your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act section 7(2)(a) to protect the privacy of individuals.

You filed a complaint with the Ombudsman against the Council's decision, which resulted in an investigation by his office.

The Council has received legal advice throughout this matter.

On instruction from the Ombudsman, the Council provides the following statement:

There was an agreed settlement between Mr Parry and the Council. Both parties received separate legal advice. The following was provided to Mr Parry to resolve employment matters:

1. Mr Parry retained his Council-owned cellphone and phone number after finishing employment with the organisation.
2. The Council transferred ownership of a Council vehicle valued at \$25,000.
3. On receipt of invoices from Mr Parry, the Council agreed to contribute towards the cost of professional development up to a maximum of \$6,000 plus GST to be taken by the end of 2024.
4. Mr Parry received a payment totalling \$287,414. This figure included a payment equivalent to 10 months gross base salary, a compensation payment, and a contribution to his legal fees.

The Council will not comment further on this matter.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonia Gerken'.

Sonia Gerken

General Manager Communications / Customer Support