

## Response to LGOIMA request from The Campaign Company

2 May 2024

Dear Emily,

Thanks for your email dated Thursday 28 March in which you requested the following:

*This is a request for official information relating to funds paid to Taituarā – formally known as the NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).*

*Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:*

- 1. A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā*
- 2. For each payment:*
  - a. the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for\* and*
  - b. whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.*

*Given the nature of Taituarā as a membership organisation – in effect the employment union for local government managers – if membership dues are not recovered or deducted, please provide:*

- a. the reasoning (if any) for not deducting the amounts (i.e. Why should ratepayers pay for a private organisation/benefit?) and*
- b. whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?*

*If the Council considers that the membership for Council officers is as part of their role at the Council (and therefore not for private benefit) please provide this information and explain how Taituarā is not therefore treated as a CCO under s 6(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the purposes of the Council group's statutory reporting.*

Our General Manager Corporate Support, Lornae Straith provides the following responses.

1. Please see attached document.
2.
  - a. Please see attached document.
  - b. The costs were incurred as part of staff's role at the Council, and they receive no private benefit from the membership.

Taituarā is an incorporated society. It is the professional body for local government managers and staff. It is not a union and plays no role in the negotiation of employment

agreement or employment relations for any individual or group within the sector. Therefore, these questions are not applicable.

Taituarā does not meet the legal definition of a CCO. It is the individual not the council that is a member of Taituarā. No local authority or group of local authorities own or control 50 percent or more of the voting rights at any meeting of Taituarā, nor does any local authority or group of local authorities have the right to appoint 50 percent or more of the members of our governing body.

The Council does pay the cost of some professional memberships for more senior and skilled staff. This is for the dual purpose of supporting professional development and ensuring that the employee can access all relevant benefits and maintenance of a professional network along with access to specialist services within the organisation concerned.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Parry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Parry  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

# Receivable Invoice Detail

## NZ Society of Local Government Managers Incorporated For the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Contact contains Gore District Council

INVOICE NUMBER	INVOICE DATE	SOURCE	REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	NET	GST	GROSS	STATUS
<b>Gore District Council</b>								
15874	16 Jan 2023	Receivable Invoice	3WatersUpdate	1 seat for Webinar: The Essential Guide to the Water Services Bills Part 2 in New Zealand on 24 Jan 23 - 26 Jan 23	650.00	97.50	747.50	Paid
15940	20 Jan 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for to Engagement Forum in Rydges Hotel, 75 Featherston St, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, Wellington City, New Zealand on 20 Feb 23 -21 Feb 23	835.00	125.25	960.25	Paid
16193	10 Feb 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for Civic Financial Services Strategic Finance Forum in Millennium Hotel, 32 Frankton Rd, 9300, Tāhuna Queenstown, Queenstown, New Zealand on 27 Apr 23 -28 Apr 23	835.00	125.25	960.25	Paid
16470	16 Mar 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for Representation Review Forum in Rydges Hotel, 75 Featherston St, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington, New Zealand on 29 May 23	540.00	81.00	621.00	Paid
INV-00011624	14 Apr 2023	Receivable Invoice	Talk it up	Advertising of the Talk it Up conference to 4 x discussion	300.00	45.00	345.00	Paid

Receivable Invoice Detail

INVOICE NUMBER	INVOICE DATE	SOURCE	REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	NET	GST	GROSS	STATUS
				groups, posted 14 April 2023				
CN-00011636	4 May 2023	Receivable Credit Note		refund of 1 seat for cancelled People and Capability Forum	(960.00)	(144.00)	(1,104.00)	Paid
INV-00011657	26 May 2023	Receivable Invoice	Talk it up	Advertising of the Talk it Up conference to 4 x discussion groups, posted 26 May 2023	300.00	45.00	345.00	Paid
INV-00011686	30 Jun 2023	Receivable Invoice	43176	Taituara full membership till June 30th 2024	275.00	41.25	316.25	Paid
INV-00011687	30 Jun 2023	Receivable Invoice	43176	Taituara full membership till June 30th 2024	275.00	41.25	316.25	Paid
INV-00011725	3 Jul 2023	Receivable Invoice	PO 43176	Taituara Full Membership, renewal to 30 June 2024	275.00	41.25	316.25	Paid
INV-00011725	3 Jul 2023	Receivable Invoice	PO 43176	Taituara Full Membership, renewal to 30 June 2024	275.00	41.25	316.25	Paid
INV-00011725	3 Jul 2023	Receivable Invoice	PO 43176	Taituara Full Membership, renewal to 30 June 2024	275.00	41.25	316.25	Paid
17335	4 Jul 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for Webinar: Bylaws refresher -the Simpson Grierson webinar series in on 12 Jul 23	250.00	37.50	287.50	Paid
17451	13 Jul 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for Online: Your CD Writing Starter Kit in on 30 Aug 23	240.00	36.00	276.00	Paid
INV-00012036	26 Jul 2023	Receivable Invoice	46109	Taituara full member till June 30th 2024	275.00	41.25	316.25	Paid
17549	28 Jul 2023	Receivable Invoice	46121	1 seat for LG Accelerated Leadership Programme - Southland in TBC, New Zealand on 04 Oct 23 - 21 May 24	3,750.00	562.50	4,312.50	Paid

Receivable Invoice Detail

INVOICE NUMBER	INVOICE DATE	SOURCE	REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	NET	GST	GROSS	STATUS
INV-00012071	14 Aug 2023	Receivable Invoice		SectorGood Work Programme - Annual Subscription for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	9,696.76	1,454.51	11,151.27	Paid
INV-00012140	23 Aug 2023	Receivable Invoice	Branch Surplus	2022 45 South retreat – event surplus	8,058.13	-	8,058.13	Paid
18013	13 Oct 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for Webinar: The Business Payment Practice Regulations in on 08 Nov 23	325.00	48.75	373.75	Paid
18017	16 Oct 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for Webinar: Crowded places –How councils can respond to hate motivated behaviour in New Zealand on 13 Nov 23	325.00	48.75	373.75	Paid
INV-18237	20 Nov 2023	Receivable Invoice		1 seat for Webinar: Climate Change Financial Disclosures in on 05 Dec 23	325.00	48.75	373.75	Paid
<b>Total Gore District Council</b>					<b>27,119.89</b>	<b>2,859.26</b>	<b>29,979.15</b>	
<b>Total</b>					<b>27,119.89</b>	<b>2,859.26</b>	<b>29,979.15</b>	