

Response to LGOIMA request from Stuff

2 May 2024

Dear Sinead,

Thanks for your email dated 25 March in which you requested the following:

1. What is the total amount that your council spent on consultants during the 2023, 2022 and 2021 calendar years?
2. Could this figure also please be broken down by department.
3. During each of the 23/22/21 calendar years, how many consultants did work for the council?
4. What is the per diem range, organised by department?
5. What is the highest rate that a consultant was paid for work in 2023, and in which department did they work?

Our General Manager Corporate Support provides the following responses:

For questions 1-3, please see below table outlining departments, figures per calendar year and the number of consultants.

Department	2021	2022	2023
3 Waters & Solid Waste	\$519,920	\$642,224	\$580,687
Aquatic Services & Stadiums	\$14,565	\$12,304	\$3,434
Cemeteries	\$13,359	-	-
Central Administration	\$127,374	\$66,838	\$24,480
Elected Members	\$5,000	\$18,250	\$24,612
Heritage Precinct	\$11,565	\$6,775	\$2,500
Parks & Reserves	\$65,425	\$1,548	\$19,779
Property	\$9,210	\$30,057	\$2,450
Regulatory	\$265,478	\$130,760	\$102,466
Roading	\$104,933	\$164,741	\$156,758
Grand Total	\$1,136,828	\$1,073,497	\$917,167
Total Number of Consultants	38	36	28

In relation to question 4, this information is not applicable.

The Council refuses to answer question 5 under Section 17 (f) of the Local Government Official Meetings Act 1987. To obtain this information would require substantial collation or research.

Many consultants have different staff working at various rates, and collating this would require reviewing every invoice for every consultant the Council engages. In the 2023 calendar year, there were over 1,000 invoices received from consultants – this has been estimated to be a 15-20 hour task to complete. If you wish to obtain this information, the Council will charge \$80/hr for the time (total anticipated cost \$1,200 - \$1,600) and would require a 50% deposit.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Straith', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Lornae Straith
GM Corporate Support