

13 June 2022

File Ref: OIAP-7-24299

Quentin Duthie

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Quentin

Request for information 2022-065

I refer to your request for information dated 18 May 2022, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 18 May 2022. You have requested the following:

“1. Please send me meeting and event attendance records for all councillors this triennium. Please include all full council and council committee meetings, all councillor workshops, and all official field trips or events (if such information is available).

2. Please send a spreadsheet showing all councillor's remuneration and personal expenses this triennium. I anticipate this would include base rem, additional rem for roles like committee chair, travel and other expense reimbursement. No detail required at this stage, just a table of totals broken down by councillor, spend type and financial year (including YTD for 2021-22, and updated totals once FY ends).”

Greater Wellington's response follows:

1. Please send me meeting and event attendance records for all councillors this triennium. Please include all full council and council committee meetings, all councillor workshops, and all official field trips or events (if such information is available).

Council and committee meetings

Councillor attendance is recorded in the minutes of each Council, committee and subcommittee meeting. We are, therefore, refusing this part of your request under section 17(d) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the ground that requested information is publicly available.

Full records, including public minutes, of Greater Wellington's Council and committee meetings are available on Greater Wellington's website under *Your Region > Calendar > Past Events*

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/?date-range=past-dates&from-date=&to-date=09%2F06%2F2022&start=0&topics%5B%5D=®ions%5B%5D=>).

Councillor workshops

Greater Wellington has implemented a formal process to document attendance at workshops from 28 October 2021. Attendance information prior to this date has not been documented or kept. It is therefore necessary to refuse your request for the period from 12 October 2019 to 27 October 2021 under section 17(e) of the Act on the ground that the document alleged to contain the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Please refer to **Attachment 1** for councillor attendance at workshops from 28 October 2021.

Field Trips

Field trips for Councillors are organised to provide Councillors with a better understanding of Greater Wellington operations and matters of local interest. This triennium, field trips have included visits to the following:

- Locations along the Hutt River (for flood protection, with Hutt City Councillors invited),
- Wainuiwhenua, for climate change,
- Various locations in the Wairarapa for environment and transport related reasons
- Various locations across the Metlink bus and rail network.

Field trips are arranged by the relevant Greater Wellington departments and Councillor attendance has not been recorded. As such, it is necessary to refuse this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act on the ground that the document alleged to contain the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Events

Greater Wellington does not record Councillor attendance at events, as Councillors are invited to a variety of events that are not organised by Greater Wellington. Councillors also manage their own diaries. We have, therefore, refused this part of your response under section 17(e) of the Act on the ground that the document alleged to contain the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Where we have refused your request under section 17(e) of the Act, we are required to consider consulting you. In this instance we do not consider that consulting you would change the outcome of our decision.

2. Please send a spreadsheet showing all councillor's remuneration and personal expenses this triennium. I anticipate this would include base rem, additional rem for roles like committee chair,

travel and other expense reimbursement. No detail required at this stage, just a table of totals broken down by councillor, spend type and financial year (including YTD for 2021-22, and updated totals once FY ends).

The Remuneration Authority is responsible for determining the remuneration of local authority elected members, and it issues a publicly available determination each financial year, and whenever a council changes its remuneration structure. The determinations are available on the New Zealand Legislation website following the links below:

[Local Government Members \(2022/23\) Determination](#)

[Local Government Members \(2021/22\) Determination](#)

[Local Government Members \(2020/21\) Determination](#)

[Local Government Members \(2019/20\) Determination](#) (from election)

The base remuneration is based on position and responsibility, which has been set by Council. Councillor positions of additional responsibility are as follows:

Councillor	Position of additional responsibility
Daran Ponter	Council Chair
Adrienne Staples	Council Deputy Chair
Roger Blakeley	Chair, Transport Committee
Jenny Brash	Co-Chair, Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee
Penny Gaylor	Chair, Environment Committee
Glenda Hughes	Chair, Chief Executive Employment Review Committee
Thomas Nash	Chair, Climate Committee
Prue Lamason	Chair, Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee and Portfolio Leader Parks, Forests, Biodiversity and Recreation
David Lee	Portfolio Leader Sustainable Development

Councillors Connelly, Kirk-Burnnand, Laban, and van Lier have no additional responsibilities for which they receive additional remuneration.

Attachment 2 provides the remuneration, allowances and expenses received for the period 12 October 2019 (date of election) through to 17 May 2022 (day before we received your request), broken down by financial year (2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22).

Payment of remuneration, allowances and expenses is made consistent with the provisions of each determination issued by the Remuneration Authority and in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Policy on Elected Members' Allowances and Expenses.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where practicable. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website. Whilst it is Greater Wellington's standard practice to remove the name and contact details of a requestor in a response released proactively, as you are a publicly announced intending candidate for Greater Wellington's 2022 elections, we will publish this response to the Greater Wellington website without your name redacted.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Luke Troy
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki | General Manager Strategy

Attachment 1 – Councillor Attendance at workshops (from 28 October 2021)

Attachment 2 – Councillor remuneration and expenses

Councillor/Committee	Council	Environment	Transport	Climate	Finance, Risk and Assurance	Wairarapa	Regional Transport
Blakeley	14	2	0		3		
Brash	14	2	1	1			
Connelly	12	2	1	1	3		
Gaylor	13	2	1	0		1	
Hughes	14	2	1		3		
Kirk-Burnnand	14	2	1	0	3		
Laban	13	1	1	1			
Lamason	13	2	1		3		
Lee	14	2	1	1			
Nash	14	2	1	1			
Ponter	14	2	1				1
Staples	14	2	1			1	1
van Lier	14	2	1	1		1	
Total number of workshops held 28 October 2021 – 17 May 2022	14	2	1	1	3	1	1

Key: A grey box indicates that the Councillor is not a member of the relevant Committee.

Councillor Name	Financial		ICT / Communication					Total
	Year	Period	Allowance	Expenses	Honorarium	Mileage	Travel Time	
Prue Lamason	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09	152.15	56,381.21	1,977.37		59,288.82
Prue Lamason	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02	48.75	81,570.06	2,888.93		85,697.76
Prue Lamason	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	93.47	72,158.13	3,425.44		77,541.99
Jenny Brash	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	823.86		44,830.44			45,654.30
Jenny Brash	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02		91,363.40			92,553.42
Jenny Brash	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	423.10	72,158.13			74,446.18
Ken Laban	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09		45,279.18			46,057.27
Ken Laban	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02		65,430.04			66,620.06
Ken Laban	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95		57,880.42			59,745.37
Daran Ponter	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	732.32	95.60	115,177.56	2,136.95	711.00	118,853.43
Daran Ponter	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,144.25		164,274.23			165,418.48
Daran Ponter	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	72.26	149,208.13			151,145.34
Roger Blakeley	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09		55,986.13			56,764.22
Roger Blakeley	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02	30.50	81,570.06			82,790.58
Roger Blakeley	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	30.50	72,158.13			74,053.58
Adrienne Staples	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09	16.00	61,943.63	1,640.83	592.50	64,971.05
Adrienne Staples	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02		91,798.98	3,050.19	654.38	96,693.57
Adrienne Staples	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	354.00	81,206.79	5,930.53	2,865.00	92,221.27
Penny Gaylor	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09	84.60	54,401.68	2,572.24	773.63	58,610.24
Penny Gaylor	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02	9.50	81,570.06	9,077.89	4,123.50	95,970.97
Penny Gaylor	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	26.50	72,158.13	3,976.07	1,765.00	79,790.65
Thomas Nash	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	732.32	13.07	52,577.92			53,323.31
Thomas Nash	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02		81,570.06			82,760.08
Thomas Nash	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	1,030.80	72,158.13			75,053.88
Joshua van Lier	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09	138.91	43,500.19	82.16	960.00	45,459.35
Joshua van Lier	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02	288.30	65,430.04	194.02	1,443.76	68,546.14
Joshua van Lier	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	240.15	57,880.42		1,265.63	61,251.15
Chris Kirk-Burnnand	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09	124.37	43,500.19	1,369.86	529.51	46,302.02
Chris Kirk-Burnnand	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02	25.60	65,430.04	2,390.54	987.76	70,023.96

Councillor Name	Financial		ICT / Communication					Total
	Year	Period	Allowance	Expenses	Honorarium	Mileage	Travel Time	
Chris Kirk-Burnnand	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95	26.00	57,880.42	1,733.26	740.63	62,245.26
Ros Connelly	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	778.09	13.07	43,500.19			44,291.35
Ros Connelly	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02		65,430.04			66,620.06
Ros Connelly	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95		57,880.42			59,745.37
Glenda Hughes	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	732.32	13.07	52,577.92			53,323.31
Glenda Hughes	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02		81,570.06			82,760.08
Glenda Hughes	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95		72,158.13			74,023.08
David Lee	FY20	12/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	745.39		50,798.63			51,544.02
David Lee	FY21	01/07/2020 to 30/6/2021	1,190.02		78,515.06			79,705.08
David Lee	FY22	01/07/2021 to 17/5/2022	1,864.95		69,455.63			71,320.58