

1 March 2023

File Ref: OIAP-7-27099

Tēnā koe

## Request for information 2023-018

I refer to your request for information dated 31 January 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 31 January 2023. You have requested the following:

*"I request the following information for **the 2021/22 Financial Year**:*

### 1. Average residential rates

A. *The average residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average residential costs =  $(X + Y) / Z$ . Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:*

- a. *X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;*
- b. *Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and*
- c. *Z is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).*

*Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of council rubbish bags).*

### 2 Average non-residential rates

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, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:*

- a. *X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential\*;*

- b. *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*
- c. *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).*

*\*Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 21/2022 Financial Year.*

### **3. Personnel**

- A. *The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance*
- B. *If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.*
- C. *If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations.*
- D. *The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$10,000.*
- E. *The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.*

### **4. Management**

- A. *The FTE number of managers employed. Please confirm the ratio of management to staff.*
- B. *The average and median salary of a manager.*

### **5. Communication**

- A. *The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.*
- B. *The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.*
- C. *Total expenditure on communications & marketing.*

### **6. Consultants & contractors**

- A. *Total expenditure on consultants and contractors.*
- B. *Total number of consultants and contractors paid.*

### **7 Core services**

- A. *The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.*
- B. *The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.*
- C. *The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.*

## **8. Audit and Risk Oversight**

- A. *How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?*
- B. *Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?*
- C. *Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?*
- D. *Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?*
- E. *Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?*
- F. *Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?*

## **9. Payments to third parties**

- A. *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.*
- B. *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.*
- C. *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) including GST.*

## **10. Debt**

- A. *Net debt as a percent of rates income*
- B. *The dollar amount of debt per rating unit*
- C. *The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit*

### **Greater Wellington's response follows:**

Greater Wellington honours its obligations to provide information as its obligations as a public organisation, however, it does not see it as best practice to create new information as the result of an official information request. Therefore, many of the requests you have made will need to be made by you. The information to do these calculations for the 2021/22 financial year is already publicly available in our 2021-31 Long Term Plan and 2021/22 Annual Report. You can find them here:

- Our financial year 2021/22 is covered off as year one of our <https://ltp.gw.govt.nz/our-plan/>
- [http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2022/12/GW-annual-report-2022\\_v17.pdf](http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2022/12/GW-annual-report-2022_v17.pdf)

In these documents you will find the information required to calculate answers for sections 1, 2, 6 and 10 of your request.

### **Section 1 - Average residential rates**

Please note Greater Wellington does not have charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.

In the Annual Report you will see the total number of rating units was 206,440. GW relies on the Territorial Authorities to provide updated rateable properties for our records.

**Section 2 - Average non-residential rates**

Please refer to page 220 of the Long-Term Plan.

**Section 3 - Personnel**

*The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance*

There have been no staff dismissed due to poor performance.

*If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.*

Wellington Water information is found below. Greater Wellington does not collect this information for any other council-controlled organisation. We therefore find it necessary to refuse this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Act on the ground that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown of organisation.

*If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed including those employed by council-controlled organisations.*

The total FTE number of staff employed is 645.95FTE for Greater Wellington.

*The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.*

There are 244 staff for Greater Wellington receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000. Please note that this doesn't include those receiving over \$200,000.

*The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.*

There are 18 staff for Greater Wellington receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

**Section 3 - Wellington Water:**

Dismissed for poor performance	FTE number of staff employed by CCO's	Total FTE number of staff (including CCO's)	Staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000	Staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000
NA	267.9	267.9	88	6

#### **Section 4 - Management**

*The FTE number of managers employed. Please confirm the ratio of management to staff.*

43 (3<sup>rd</sup> tier Department Managers and up). This is a ratio of 27:1.

*The average and median salary of a manager.*

Average is \$174,817. Median is \$161,620

#### **Section 5 - Communications**

*The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.*

The FTE number of communications and marketing staff employed is 16 FTE.

*The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.*

The average salary of communications and marketing staff is \$92,548 and the median is \$95,261

*Total expenditure on communications & marketing.*

The total expenditure on communications and marketing is not apportioned in final accounts. We therefore find it necessary to refuse this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Act on the ground that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown of organisation.

#### **Section 6 - Consultants & contractors**

Please refer to page 106 of the Annual Report.

#### **Section 7 - Core services**

*The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.*

The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure is 37 FTE. We've defined this as staff who specifically have delivery or maintenance in their job title.

*The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.*

The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions is 174 FTE. We've defined this as staff within Environment Management and some Catchment Management roles with a regulatory function.

*The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.*

The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles is 113 FTE. We've defined this as staff in roles which are solely customer facing or dealing with external customers on a regularly basis.

### **Section 8 - Audit and Risk Oversight**

*How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?*

Seven – the membership and terms of reference for the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee can be found on our website at <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-council/council-and-councillors/committees/>

*Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?*

Yes

*Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?*

Yes

*Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee? And Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?*

Greater Wellington has not collected this information from committee members. We therefore find it necessary to refuse these two parts of your request under section 17(g) of the Act on the ground that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown of organisation.

*Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?*

The code of conduct requires staff to behave in a politically neutral manner. The applicable section of the code of conduct states:

"5. Act in a politically neutral manner by:

- Ensuring that advice given, and actions taken are impartial and maintain public confidence.
- Ensuring your individual comments do not compromise Greater Wellington (e.g., by stating or implying that your personal view on an issue is the view of Greater Wellington or putting yourself in a situation where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest).
- Ensuring that your activities and contribution to any public debate or discussion are consistent with the need for you to be politically neutral in your work.

- Ensuring that you do not publicly criticise Greater Wellington in the performance of its statutory responsibilities.
- Ensuring your participation in political matters does not bring you into conflict or the appearance of conflict with your duty to act in a politically neutral manner.
- Ensuring that you do not let your personal beliefs or commitments adversely affect your ability to carry out your functions at Greater Wellington.”

**Section 9 - Payments to third parties**

*Greater Wellington Regional Council*

Local government New Zealand (LGNZ)	148,390.71
SOLGM/ Taituarā	93,001.81
Business Central Wellington Chamber of Commerce	516.35
Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce	448.50

*Wellington Water Limited:*

Chamber of Commerce	\$3,966,35
Local Government NZ	n/a
Society of Local Government Manager	n/a

**Section 10 – Debt**

Please refer to the funding impact statements in the Long-Term Plan on the last page of each activity section. Final debt positions can be found in the Annual Report.

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 possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington’s website with your personal information removed.

Nā u iti noa, nā



Nigel Corry  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Te Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive