

10 September 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-30063

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2024-206

I refer to your request for information dated 20 August 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 20 August 2024. You have requested the following:

“In May, public transport subsidies for children and 16-24 year olds ended in the Wellington region after the government withdrew funding. I'd like to see the data comparing the patronage of this specific demographic (children who had free transport, young adults who had half price fares) from May2024-July 2024) to the three month before the subsidy ended (February2024-April 2024) and the equivalent 3 months in 2023 (May 2023-July 2023).”

Greater Wellington's response follows:

The Government made the decision to withdraw the Government funding for the age-based concessions which were in place since 1 September 2023. As a result, free fares for children aged 5-12 and young adults under 25 years old automatically returned to the standard price fares from 1 May 2024. As the age-based concessions were funded by the Government, Council made the decision not to continue providing the concessions once funding for the concessions was no longer available.

Greater Wellington only collected data based on age-based fares for the period in which these fares were effective. It is therefore necessary to partially refuse your request as we do not hold the requested information for the periods May-July 2023 and May-July 2024. This decision is made in accordance with section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either –

- (i) Held by another local authority or a department of Minister of the Crown or organisation; or

- (ii) Connected more closely to the functions of another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

We have, however, decided to provide you with the child concession, tertiary concession, and adult fare data for the periods requested. This can help you compare some of the impacts of the Government funded concessions. Please note that the tertiary concession includes high school and tertiary students and is not age limited.

Passenger Type	Child 5-12 (free fares)	Child	Tertiary concession	Young Adult 19-24 (50%)	Adult
2023-May	No data available	549,263	184,277	No data available	1,347,976
2023-Jun	No data available	496,458	123,862	No data available	1,248,099
2023-Jul	No data available	394,812	164,905	No data available	1,234,968
2024-Feb	105,707	576,049	98,885	144,239	1,109,767
2024-Mar	102,574	613,682	145,470	179,494	1,151,177
2024-Apr	74,050	458,226	112,371	154,158	1,077,231
2024-May	No data available	714,108	177,121	No data available	1,304,525
2024-Jun	No data available	581,317	114,871	No data available	1,085,133
2024-Jul	No data available	518,825	176,129	No data available	1,226,766

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Samantha Gain

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink