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LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Lee Scanlon – The News
Information requested:	Annual Coastwide survey
Response by:	Acting Chief Executive, Scott Baxendale

Lee Scanlon
The News

Via Email: lee@westportnews.co.nz

Dear Lee

Official information request for information for your annual coastwide survey

I refer to your official information request dated 22 October 2024 for information for your annual coastwide survey.

You have asked for the following information:

1. The remuneration of your council's mayor/chair for 2023/24?

\$105,174

2. All ratepayer-funded expenses which are not part of the remuneration package for your mayor/chair for 2023/24 including: Travel, vehicle, fuel, accommodation, food/beverages, conference fees, phone, membership fees (e.g. Koru Club). Please list individual items/events separately so it's clear where costs have been incurred.

Travel			
Wellington	LGNZ workshop	Nov 23	\$577
Christchurch	Zone 5/6	Mar 24	\$711
Wellington	Meetings	Jun 24	\$636
			\$1,924
Accommodation and meals			
Wellington	Meetings	Sep 23	\$819
Franz Josef	Meetings	Oct 23	\$117
Wellington	LGNZ conference	Nov 23	\$663
Wellington	LGNZ workshop	Nov 23	\$383
Christchurch	Zone 5/6	Mar 24	\$609
			\$2,589
Conferences			
Wellington	LGNZ conference	Nov 23	\$200
Christchurch	Zone 5/6	Mar 24	\$261
			\$461
Membership Fees			N/A
Vehicle			N/A
Phone			N/A

3. The remuneration package for your council's chief Executive for 2024/24

\$271,583

4. The current remuneration package for your council’s chief executive if it has changed since June 30, 2024.

No change

5. All ratepayer funded expenses which are not part of the remuneration package for your council’s chief executive for 2023/24 including: Travel, vehicle, fuel, accommodation, food/beverages, conference fees, phone, membership fees (e.g. Koru Club). Please list individual items/events separately so it’s clear where costs have been incurred.

Travel			
Wellington	Meetings	Sep 23	\$608
Wellington	LGNZ workshop	Nov 23	\$741
			\$1,349
Accommodation and meals			
Wellington	Meetings	Sep 23	\$222
Franz Josef	Meetings	Oct 23	\$267
Wellington	LGNZ conference	Nov 23	\$899
Wellington	LGNZ workshop	Nov 23	\$383
Haast	Meetings	Mar 24	\$117
Greymouth	Meetings	Jan 24	\$166
Christchurch	Zone 5/6	Mar 24	\$539
Franz Josef	Meetings	May 24	\$120
			\$2,710
Conferences			
Christchurch	Zone 5/6	Mar 24	\$261
			\$261
Membership Fees			
Taituara			\$275
			\$275
Vehicle			
			N/A
Phone			
			N/A

6. Does your mayor/chair and/or chief executive have a council credit card. If so, what rules apply to its use?

No.

7. What was the number of FTE staff employed by your council at June 30, 2024?

69.56

8. What were your council’s total staff costs for the year ended June 30, 2024?

\$6,704,000

9. What percentage did staff costs comprise of your councils operating spending?

15.8%

10. What was the average cost per FTE employee?

\$88,211

11. How many staff were employed in each salary band?

Council employee remuneration by band	2024
Annual remuneration by band for employees as at 30 June:	
< \$60,000	15
\$60,000 - \$79,999	20
\$80,000 - \$99,999	18
\$100,000 - \$119,999	10
\$120,000 - \$139,999	7
\$140,000 - \$219,999	6
Total employees	76

12. Please supply your council's legal expenses for 2023/24 and what the expenses related to?

Council	CCO amalgamation advice and leases	\$52,467
Building Control	Preparation of Section 72's	\$12,399
Dog Control	Infringements	\$2,165
Resource Management	Compliance advice	\$88,388
District Plan	Plan advice	\$2,460
Pakiwaitara Building	Lease matters	\$460
Land and Buildings	Easements and land matter	\$7,525
Responsible camping	Infringements	\$130
In-house professional services	3 waters reform and land	\$20,548
Corporate Services	Debt	\$21,926
Chief Executive Office	Customer advice	\$11,478
Human Resources	Employment related matters	\$12,254
Total		\$232,200

13. How much did the legal expenses comprise of your council's operating expenses (and what was the operating cost)?

0.54 %

Operating cost \$42,367,169

14. What was the average cost per rateable property of your council's legal bills?

\$34.79

15. How much did your council pay for professional public/relations communications advice in 2023/24?

\$1,650.88

16. To whom was this advice provided – councillors, staff or both – and in what form (e.g written report, workshop)?

Councillors and Executive team – Verbal and written.

17. How much has your council paid for professional public relations/communication advice since June 30, 2024?

\$4,067.90

18. To whom was this advice provided, and in what form (e.g. written report, workshop)?

Councillors and Executive team – Verbal and written.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.

The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,



Scott Baxendale | Acting Chief Executive

SB/MB