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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.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Request from:</b>          | Private Individual                             |
| <b>Information requested:</b> | Information relating to funds paid to Taituara |
| <b>Response by:</b>           | Te Aroha Cook, Acting Chief Executive          |

09 April 2024

Via Email:

Dear Private Individual

**Official information request for information relating to funds paid to Taituara**

I refer to your official information request dated 28 March 2024 for information relating to funds paid to Taituara.

You have asked for the following information:

**Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:**

- 1. A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e including any CCOs) to Taituara**
- 2. For each payment:**
  - a. The date, invoice number, and what the payment was for and**

Part of the information requested is below, however we have decided to refuse in part some aspects of your request under section 7(2)(b)(ii) that would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

- b. Whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.**

| Training by Department         | Value by department | Comment                                    |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Corporate Planning             | \$950.00            | Not deducted from employee as work related |
| Corporate Services             | \$4,130.00          | Not deducted from employee as work related |
| In-house professional services | \$650.00            | Not deducted from employee as work related |

| Membership by Department       | Value by department | Comment                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Corporate Planning             | \$275.00            | Membership for local government matters |
| Corporate Services             | \$275.00            | Membership for local government matters |
| In-house professional services | \$275.00            | Membership for local government matters |

| Job Advertising | Value<br>department | by | Comment                             |
|-----------------|---------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| Job Advertising | \$4,215.00          |    | Listserve advertising for vacancies |

| Toolkit                  | Value<br>department | by | Comment                                |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----|--|
| Sector good work toolkit | \$8,270.42          |    | All of Council good practise resources |

**Given the nature of Taituara as a membership organisation – in effect the employment union for local government managers – if membership dues are not recovered or deducted, please provide:**

- 1. The reasoning (if any) for not deducting the amounts i.e. why should ratepayers pay for a private organisation/benefit?)**
- 2. Whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?**

**If the Council considers that the membership for Council officers is *as part of their role at the Council* (and therefore not for private benefit) please provide this information and explain how Taituarā is not therefore treated as a CCO under s 6(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the purposes of the Council group’s statutory reporting.**

Taituarā is an incorporated society. It is the professional body for local government managers and staff. Membership is voluntary rather than a requirement as is the case for example with lawyers, accountants etc. They are not a union and play no role in the negotiation of employment contracts or employment relations for any individual or group within the sector.

Under the Local Government Act. Taituarā does not meet the legal definition of a CCO. It is the individual not the council that is a member of Taituarā. No local authority or group of local authorities own or control 50 percent or more of the voting rights at any meeting of Taituarā, nor does any local authority or group of local authorities have the right to appoint 50 percent or more of the members of the Taituara governing body.

The largest of the invoices is the payment of the annual sector good levy. The levy funds the work Taituara do on behalf of the sector including the development of guides and resources to help the sector implement legislation and, working with central government and its agencies to ensure legislation is workable (for example, making a submission on a Bill or discussion document), and so on. Taituara submissions are matters of public record. For example, any submission to a piece of legislation or select committee inquiry will be on the Parliamentary website. But in any case the most recent are on a publicly available page of the Taituara website.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

**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](mailto:LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz), 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

**Te Arohanui** | Acting Chief Executive

TC/MB