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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:	Janna Sherman – Hokitika Guardian
Information requested:	Chief Executive recruitment and severance information
Response by:	Barbara Phillips, Chief Executive

Janna Sherman
Hokitika Guardian

Via Email: janna.sherman@hokitikaguardian.co.nz

Dear Janna

Official information request for Chief Executive (CE) recruitment and severance information

I refer to your official information request dated 29 November 2024 for CE recruitment and severance information.

You have asked for the following information:

New CE:

1. How many applications were received for the CE position?

There were 68 applications received for the CE position.

2. How many of these were

a. From the West Coast or with West Coast connections?

3 applicants advised of connections to the West Coast and/or resided on the West Coast.

b. From elsewhere around the country (please include where if not too many)?

48 applications were received from around New Zealand and included Wellington, Gore, Auckland, Christchurch, Arrowtown, Hamilton, Blenheim, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Invercargill, and Whanganui.

c. From Australia or elsewhere overseas?

17 applications had been received from overseas and included applications from Finland, Malaysia, China, Singapore, Pakistan, Hong Kong, India and South Africa.

3. How many were on the shortlist?

There were 11 people on the shortlist which was then refined to 4.

4. At what point did the CE committee take control?

As per the Terms of Reference for the Chief Executive's (CE's) Review Committee, the Committee were involved at the time the applications were shortlisted.

5. Did the new CE receive any relocation assistance, or had she already returned to NZ?

Barbara Phillips was already residing in New Zealand and as part of her contractual arrangement received relocation assistance to the West Coast.

6. Will the new CE contract include a vehicle?

The new CE contract does not include a vehicle.

Ex CE:

- 1. How did the severance figure of \$190,000 come about for former CE Simon Bastion? (i.e. percentage of pay for the last remaining years of his contract)**
- 2. Did it include a vehicle?**
- 3. Were councillors involved in the decision/discussion process?**
- 4. Is this the largest severance paid out by the Westland District Council?**
- 5. Were other severances looked at in comparison (I note Dawn Baxendale's controversial payout was only \$126,000)?**

We are refusing this part of your request under section 7(2)(a) of LGOIMA to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

The principles of public interest were weighed against the refusal of these questions. We do not believe the principles of public interest outweigh the refusal of this information.

6. What budget or rate do severance payments come from?

Severance payments are funded from the General Rate.

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 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, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,



Barbara Phillips | Chief Executive

BP/MB