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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:	New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
Information requested:	Christmas costs for 2022 and 2023
Response by:	Lesley Crichton, Acting Chief Executive

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

Via Email:

Dear New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

Official information request for Christmas costs for 2022 and 2023

I refer to your official information request dated 07 December 2023 for Christmas costs for 2022 and 2023.

You have asked for the following information:

End-of-year bonuses:

- 1. Total amount paid in end-of-year bonuses to the CEO this Christmas?**

None.

- 2. Total amount paid in bonuses to staff employed by your organization this Christmas?**

None.

- 3. Please also provide the same for Christmas 2022.**

None.

Presents for Staff:

- 1. Total expenditure on presents for staff including but not limited to "Secret Santa" etc?**

None.

- 2. Please include this cost for last year also.**

None.

Christmas Parade:

- 1. Total expenditure breakdown on any Christmas parade hosted or funded by the Council this year? This should also include road closure impact assessments where possible.**

Westland District Council does not contribute towards or have any involvement in the annual Christmas Parade.

- 2. Please include a cost breakdown for any Christmas parade last year.**

N/A.

Christmas trees and lights:

- 1. Number of Christmas trees purchased and erected, and the cost of these purchases for this year?**

None.

2. Please also include the cost for any Christmas lights for tree and any lights for buildings for this year?

None.

3. Please also include the cost of both for last year, too.

None.

4. Please highlight if the Council had any left over from last year.

N/A.

Hiring Santa:

1. Breakdown of costs associated with hiring a Santa, if applicable?

None.

2. Please also provide this information for last year, too?

N/A

Christmas Market:

1. Breakdown of costs associated with running/hosting/sponsoring a Christmas market, if applicable.

None.

2. Please provide this information for last year, too.

None.

Christmas Party Supplies:

1. Please breakdown the amount spent on the following for the years 2022 and 2023:

- a. Wrapping paper – None.
- b. Santa hats – None.
- c. Alcohol for parties – None.
- d. Party hats – None.
- e. Christmas crackers – None.
- f. Christmas cards – None.
- g. Christmas decorations – None.

Christmas Parties:

1. Total expenditure breakdown on Council Christmas parties. Please also include in the breakdown any travel arrangements costs. 2023: \$1,973.54 (this is catering and drinks) No travel arrangements required.

2. Please include this for last year, also.

2022: \$2,516.83 (this is catering and drinks) No travel arrangements required.

Office Closure:

1. Duration of office closure during the Christmas period for the council generally?

For 2023 22/12/2023 Midday to 03/01/2024 8am

2. Please specify how many managers and senior executive staff are taking more hours/days out of office than is blanket across the council for the Christmas period?

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

3. Does the Christmas office closure also affect contractors paid by the council? If not, how much are they being paid over the Christmas break in an hourly rate?

Contractors are only paid for the hours they work.

Fines:

1. Does the council have any plans to increase fines for parking offences or any other offences during the Christmas period?

a. If so, which fines are increasing, why and what revenue is expected to be raised?

Not applicable as we don't issue parking fines.

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,

Lesley Crichton | Acting Chief Executive
LC/MB