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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>	Sean Rainy – Christchurch City Council
<b>Information requested:</b>	Legal costs related to defamation proceedings initiated by Mayor Smith
<b>Response by:</b>	Scott Baxendale, Acting Chief Executive

18 October 2024

Sean Rainey  
Christchurch City Council

Via Email: [sean.rainey@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:sean.rainey@ccc.govt.nz)

Dear Sean

**Official information request for legal costs related to defamation proceedings initiated by Mayor Smith**

I refer to your official information request dated 02 October 2024 for legal costs related to the defamation proceedings initiated by Mayor Smith.

You have asked for the following information:

1. **As the funder of the defamation proceedings initiated by the former Mayor, Mr Smith please confirm the total legal costs for this and subsequent Court of Appeal and enforcement matters. [original High Court Judgment dated 31 May 2021]**

\$90,177.96

2. **Did the Council require Mr Smith to account for these costs (as referenced at para 48 of the Judgment)**

Yes.

3. **Did the Council and/or Mr Smith recover any costs from the defendants?**

Yes.

4. **If not answered above, what was the total cost to the ratepayer of this action, the appeals and the enforcement actions?**

\$41,753.91

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

Sincerely,



**Scott Baxendale** | Acting Chief Executive  
SB/MB