

29 March 2023

Kia ora

Expenses

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 9 February 2023. You requested the following information:

1. How much does the Council spend annually in packaging and sending out communication information for events/display information to community centres?
2. How much does the Council spend on site blessings in a year and why the Council thinks this is a good use of ratepayers' money
3. Why did the housing build project on Harrison Street receive two blessings?

Wellington City Council has partly granted your request for information.

Question 1

The following information provides a breakdown of expenses in sending communication material to community centres across Wellington.

Please note, information held for the previous 2021/2022 has been provided in full, however as we are still currently in the 2022/2023 financial year this information has been partly provided up to 20 February 2023.

	FY 2021/2022	FY 2022/2023 (part year)
Printing Costs	\$1,138.17	\$696.61
Envelope Costs	\$1,085.36	\$347.33
Courier Costs	\$1,639.44	\$699.84
Total Costs	\$3,862.97	\$1,743.78

Question 2

We have assessed your question and as it stands this part of your request would take considerable time for officers to manually search and collate the information you have requested. The data we hold in respect to the cost of blessings is not detailed enough to confirm if the koha made was

related to blessings, Council Officers would need to assess each individual transaction to confirm this.

Without refining your request, the Council would either consider refusing your request under section 17(f) of the act due to substantial manual collation or research or we may consider charging for the request.

However, we can confirm the koha made to Mana Whenua for the two blessings held at the Harrison Street site, please note these figures are GST exclusive:

30 November 2020 - \$800.00

03 March 2023 - \$1615.00

Please note:

- The above costs include administration and facilitation fees
- The second blessing in March 2023 was larger in scale and as such the costs are reflective of this
- The above costs for the two blessings on the Harrison Street site were payments made directly from the City Housing budget and not rates funded

Question 3

Work on the Harrison Street redevelopment has recently been completed, with nine modern and fully insulated family homes now standing on the site where the former Harrison Street flats once stood. The former Harrison Street flats were vacated in 2017 (with tenants re-housed to other City Housing properties during this time) and the flats demolished as they were earthquake prone.

Prior to enabling works on the site, on 30 November 2020 the Council held a dawn blessing. Taranaki Whānui, the Wellington City Council, and local residents came together for a karakia and the turning of the soil.

In March of this year, the construction of these nine new homes was completed, and whilst tenants will move in later this month, a blessing and naming ceremony was held to mark the opening of these new homes.

The dawn blessing held in 2020 and the most recent blessing and naming ceremony held on 3 March this year, both align with the Council's Tūpiki Ora Māori strategy, (approved by the [Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee](#) on 1 September 2022), the Council's partnership Agreement with Mana Whenua, Tākai Here (signed on 29 April 2022) and He Waka Eke Noa: Effectiveness for Māori Framework (launched in 2015).

Tūpiki Ora Māori Strategy

Tūpiki Ora, a metaphor for the pursuit of well-being, establishes a new way of working together with our community to strengthen our relationships and support our whānau to prosper. In particular, [page 13](#) details the four main outcomes of Tūpiki Ora Māori Strategy, with step two being of particular importance to the Council's decision to hold these blessings on Harrison Street:

2. Te reo Māori and te ao Māori are normalised in our city through greater access, increased resources and more opportunities to celebrate our language and culture.

Mana Whenua and Wellington City Council Agreement - Tākai Here

Tūpiki Ora above, follows on from the signing of the Tākai Here partnership agreement between Mana Whenua and Wellington City Council.

[Page 6](#) of this partnership agreement details shared values which support the blessings held on the Harrison Street site:

Mana Whenua are highly anchored on manaakitanga resulting in being inclusive and collaborative. The true essence of respect for one another to place and space will be adhered to through rituals, protocols, collaborations, engagements, and communications. To each have the authority to execute all protocols and rituals with the total support of all involved.

He Waka Eke Noa: Effectiveness for Māori Framework

The Council's Effectiveness for Māori Framework - He Waka Eke Noa (EFM) launched in 2015, looked ahead to 2040, identified how the Council will strengthen Māori communities and create innovative ways to facilitate Māori participation in our decision making and empower our organisation's capacity to respond effectively to our Māori stakeholders and communities.

Part of the vision behind He Waka Eke Noa details that the Council will work to ensure the past, present, and future role of Māori communities in our city will be valued and reflected in all aspects of our work, including urban design, economic development, resource management, social wellbeing, arts, culture and recreation; both blessings at the Harrison Street development site align with this vision.

More information can be found on the Council's website via the following link: [Māori information hub - Wellington City Council](#).

Right of review

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant
Official Information