

31 May 2022

The Taxpayer's Union
report@ratepayers.nz

Kia ora,

Ratepayer's report

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 03 May 2022. You requested the following information:

I request the following information for the **2020/21 Financial Year**: Please use **GST inclusive** figures where applicable.

1. Average residential rates

- a. The average **residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average residential costs = (X + Y) / Z**.
 - Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
 - o **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;
 - o **Y** is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and
 - o **Z** is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).
 - Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

Average Residential Costs	F2020/2021
average residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average residential costs = (X + Y) / Z	\$2,967.47
X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;	\$221,438,160
Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and	\$400,000
Z is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).	74,622

2. Average non-residential rates

- a. The average **non-residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z**.

- Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
 - o **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;
 - o **Y** is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and
 - o **Z** is the number of rating units except those defined as residential* (however defined by the Council) within the Council’s district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).
- Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example, retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

***Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.**

Average Non- Residential Costs	F2020/2021
The average non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges, where average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z .	\$33,101.35
X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;	\$150,580,260
Y is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and	\$21,182,630
Z is the number of rating units except those defined as residential* (however defined by the Council) within the Council’s district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).	5,189

3. Personnel

- A. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
- B. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.
- C. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
- D. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

Staff Numbers F2020/2021				
	Dismissed for poor performance	FTE number of staff	Staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000	Staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000
Council	NA	1,433.9*	337	23
Karori Sanctuary Trust (Zealandia)	NA	58.7	5	1
Wellington Zoo Trust	NA	79.14	7	1
Wellington Cable Car Limited	NA	19	2	1
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Limited (Wellington NZ)	NA	129	25	5
Wellington Museums Trust (Experience Wellington)	NA	87.78	10	1
Basin Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wellington Water	NA	235.7	88	4

* This is the number of FTE staff employed by WCC and is on page 156 volume 1 of the annual report and the breakdown of remuneration is on page 111 volume 2 of the annual report.

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

Audit and Risk Oversight	F2020/2021
a) How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?	8
b) Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?	Yes, there are two independent members on the committee
c) Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?	Yes
d) Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?	Yes, we have one member who is a lawyer with a current practising certificate
e) Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?	No, we have three chartered accountants on the subcommittee, but they do not hold current practicing certificates as they are either retired (two members) or it is not required for their current roles (one member)
f) Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?	Yes, political neutrality is explicitly covered in our staff Code of Conduct

More information on the membership of this subcommittee and its Terms of Reference is available on our WCC website

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/committees/audit-and-risk-subcommittee>

5. Payments to third parties

- A. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.
- B. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.
- C. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.

Payments made to third parties F2020/2021			
	A (Chamber of Commerce)	B (Local Government NZ)	C (NZ Society of Local Government Managers)
The Council	\$16,675.00	\$190,554.69	\$53,595.94
Karori Sanctuary Trust (Zealandia)	NA	NA	NA
Wellington Zoo Trust	NA	NA	NA
Wellington Cable Car Limited	\$2,318.45	\$59,204	NA
Wellington Waterfront Limited	NA	NA	NA
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Limited (Wellington NZ)	\$81,326.47	NA	NA
Wellington Museums Trust (Experience Wellington)	\$2,501.25	NA	NA
Basin Reserve	NA	NA	NA
Wellington Water	\$6,262.90	NA	\$316.25

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

Claudia Holgate
Senior Advisor, Official Information