

12 December 2023

[REDACTED]

Meri Kirihimete,

### **Courtenay Place Christmas Tree**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 14 November 2023. You requested the following information:

- **Christmas Tree on Courtenay Place - holiday period 2023 - 2024:**  
The total cost of the Christmas tree, including design, manufacture, procurement, transportation, assembly, and any other relevant costs. Breakdown of costs, specifying assembly expenses and any additional relevant expenditures
- **Christmas Tree on Courtenay Place - holiday period 2022 - 2023:**  
The total cost of the Christmas tree, including design, manufacture, procurement, transportation, assembly, and any other relevant costs. Breakdown of costs, specifying assembly expenses and any additional relevant expenditures.
- **Christmas Tree on Courtenay Place - holiday period 2021 - 2022:**  
The total cost of the Christmas tree, including design, manufacture, procurement, transportation, assembly, and any other relevant costs. Breakdown of costs, specifying assembly expenses and any additional relevant expenditures.
- **Storage Costs Since 2021:**  
Any costs associated with storing the Christmas tree or related items from the year 2021 to the present (2023). - Breakdown of storage costs, if applicable.
- **Future Storage Costs:**  
Any anticipated costs associated with storing Christmas trees or related items in the future, beyond the current year (2023).  
If there are plans or projections for storage costs, please provide relevant details.

### **Christmas in the Quarters**

This year, we are celebrating Christmas with four free whānau-friendly events, in four different parts of the city this year, each with its own unique theme.

Christmas in the Quarters will see a range of entertainment and activities including choirs, performances, bands, music groups, circus, brass bands, and Christmas favourites the snowball dome, ice rink, foam pit, and much more with Santa making a guest appearance for the main finale event at Waitangi Park.

Event details are below, more information can be found [here](#):

- **Crafts at Midland Park, 11am-5pm at Midland Park, Saturday 25 November**

- Music at Glover Park, 11am-5pm at Glover Park, Saturday 2 December
- Circus at Queens Wharf, 11am-5pm, Saturday 9 December
- Santa's Arrival at Waitangi Park, 11am-5pm, Saturday 16 December

Alongside the Christmas in the Quarters events, the CBD will also be dressed for Christmas with city-wide Christmas-themed flags, and three Christmas trees – Queens Wharf Plaza, Courtenay Place, and Midland Park. The Bucket Fountain on Cuba Mall will also be lit up.

### **Request for Information**

Your request for information has been assessed and a decision to refuse your request has been made. On investigation the data we hold with respect to the Christmas tree on Courtenay Place (being one of three Christmas trees in the city) is not detailed enough to confirm the expenses, this includes expenses such as design, manufacture, procurement, transportation, assembly etc.

The Council's Events team, who oversee the Christmas events in the city each year, have confirmed that they do not have an itemised cost breakdown available for this specific Christmas tree for this festive season and the previous two. Costs associated with this tree are included within a fixed budget for the entire Christmas event and these expenses are not broken down by each item. The Christmas event expenses includes Christmas in the Quarters, decorating the city and support of some suburban Christmas activities.

Similarly, we are unable to provide you with storages expenses specific to the tree on Courtenay Place. Outside of the Christmas period, all three trees (including the one on Courtenay Place) are kept in a storage location where all event storage is managed and not limited to Christmas events, this includes any previous and future storage plans for this tree.

We are therefore refusing your request under section 17(e) of the Act because the requested information does not exist.

### **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](http://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,

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant  
**Official Information**