

**From:** official information  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 March 2021 6:57 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED] official information  
**Subject:** FW: LGOIMA 21051 FURTHER RESPONSE - [REDACTED] - New Zealand Tax Payers Union - Lego Ducks

Kia ora

I refer to your request below.

The response that was provided to you was specifically in relation to the 11 February 2021 Community Committee meeting where the Lego duck exercise was carried out. It did not encompass use of the exercise as part of Dr Puddle's work with HCC. There was no intent to omit any information regarding Lego duck construction, the understanding of the team when your request was received was that it related only to the exercise undertaken at the February meeting.

As a result of your further email, HCC can provide the following supplementary responses to your questions:

**2. How many councillors and staff made Lego ducks?**

Council does not hold information regarding how many Lego ducks have been created by staff across all of HCC. Staff are however of the view that the statement by Dr Puddle at the February Committee meeting regarding the number of ducks constructed is likely to be the best estimate of the total amount across HCC. This exercise would have been carried out in the context of communicating and implementing Council's Play Strategy, which is available on Council's website.

**3. How much councillor and staff time was involved in making these ducks?**

Council does not hold exact information regarding staff time spent constructing Lego ducks. Construction time is estimated to take around 3- 5 minutes, this depends however on the context in which the exercise was undertaken.

**4. What is the estimated cost of councillor and staff time making said ducks?**

Council does not hold a record of staff who constructed Lego ducks and cannot estimate the cost of staff time.

**5. Please provide photos of the ducks.**

Council does not hold photos of Lego ducks constructed by staff.

Part of your request is therefore refused (as detailed above) pursuant to section 17(e) of LGOIMA - as the document(s) that would contain the information requested do not exist. 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Kind regards,

**Michelle**  
Official Information Team

Email: [officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 March 2021 8:37 am  
**To:** official information <[officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA 21051 RESPONSE FINAL - [REDACTED] - New Zealand Tax Payers Union - Lego Ducks

Morena Michele

Thank you for your Official Information Act reply this morning.

I do have one concern as the information provided appears to directly contradict public statements by Dr Puddle in the article cited in the request. Your reply repeatedly states that no staff participated, but Dr Puddle specifically says:

*Puddle said he had recently presented that challenge to numerous council staff, as his introduction to them.*

*"I have had 51 ducks created so far, and zero of those ducks have been identical to each other."*

I would appreciate an immediate clarification about the 41 ghost ducks seemingly missing from the answer. I am happy to discuss by phone - [REDACTED]

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

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**From:** [official information](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 March 2021 8:22 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] [official information](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)  
**Subject:** FW: LGOIMA 21051 RESPONSE FINAL - [REDACTED] - New Zealand Tax Payers Union - Lego Ducks

Kia ora

I refer to your information request below, Hamilton City Council is able to provide the following response.

**1. I request details of the Lego ducks created by Council staff at the behest of Dr Puddle:**

Dr Damien Puddle is employed by Sport Waikato. Sport Waikato and Hamilton City Council are working in partnership to implement strategies to increase levels of physical activity and improve wellbeing across the city. At the Community Committee on 11 February 2021, Dr Puddle asked the elected members and Maangai Maaori to participate in a short exercise with Lego.

**2. How many councillors and staff made Lego ducks?**

The eight councillors and two Maangai Maaori in physical attendance at the meeting participated. No staff participated.

3. **How much councillor and staff time was involved in making these ducks?**  
Three and half minutes. No staff participated.
4. **What is the estimated cost of councillor and staff time making said ducks?**  
There are no set hours attributable to an Elected Member position so the three and a half minutes cannot be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Their participation in the exercise was undertaken as part of their overall role. No staff participated.
5. **Please provide photos of the ducks.**  
See the photo attached of the ducks constructed.
6. **How was the Lego used procured? Did the Council or Dr Puddle pay for it on Council accounts?**  
It was borrowed from the Hamilton City Libraries Team. The Libraries have held a small collection of Lego since 2010 used in children's events, it has been both donated and purchased over time.
7. **What will happen to the Lego ducks in the coming year?**  
They were disassembled and the Lego returned to the library.
8. **Are Lego ducks still being made by Councillors or staff?**  
The exercise is effective in quickly and cheaply initiating conversations about play in an engaging manner. There are no scheduled events using this technique. but staff may use this approach where appropriate in the future.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Kind regards,

**Michelle**

Official Information Team

Email: [officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)

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**From:** official information

**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 8:19 a.m.

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** official information <[officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** LGOIMA 21051 - [REDACTED] - New Zealand Tax Payers Union - Lego Ducks

Kia ora,

I write to acknowledge your information request of Thursday 18 February 2021 as below.

Please be advised that your request has been passed on to the relevant team within Council and you will be informed of the outcome.

The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requires that we advise you of our decision on whether the Council will provide the requested information as soon as reasonably practicable, and no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request. We will respond to you no later than Thursday 18 March 2021.

Kind Regards,

**Tatiana Taunoa**

Official Information Team | Legal Services & Risk

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Email: [officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)

Hamilton City Council | Private Bag 3010 | Hamilton 3240 | [www.hamilton.govt.nz](http://www.hamilton.govt.nz)

**From:** Hamilton City Council <[do.not.reply@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:do.not.reply@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 18 February 2021 2:24 p.m.

**To:** official information <[officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** HCC Website - Official Information Request ref: HCC-QF-210218-8H8NO-WHJ

#### HCC Website - Official Information Request

**Reference:** HCC-QF-210218-8H8NO-WHJ

**Attachment:** not attached

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Email address:** [REDACTED]

**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

#### Detailed Description of Request

I request details of the Lego ducks created by Council staff at the behest of Dr Puddle:

1. How many councillors and staff made Lego ducks?
2. How much councillor and staff time was involved in making these ducks?
3. What is the estimated cost of councillor and staff time making said ducks?
4. Please provide photos of the ducks.
5. How was the Lego used procured? Did the Council or Dr Puddle pay for it on Council accounts?
6. What will happen to the Lego ducks in the coming year?
7. Are Lego ducks still being made by Councillors or staff?

Regards

[REDACTED]

Source - [https://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/news/124223593/let-us-play-new-council-strategy-reimagines-entire-city-as-an-urban-playground?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](https://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/news/124223593/let-us-play-new-council-strategy-reimagines-entire-city-as-an-urban-playground?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

**Organisation:** New Zealand Taxpayers' Union  
<ducks.jpg>