Laura Bowman

From: official information
Sent: Friday, 28 May 2021 2:09 pm
To: [redacted]
Cc: official information
Subject: RESPONSE (Part 1 of 2) - LGOIMA 21145 - Taxpayers Union - 2021 Ratepayers' Report

Kia Ora,

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

Your Request (1 of 5)

I request the following information for the **2019/20 Financial Year**:

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:
   X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;
   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
   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).

Our Response (1 of 5)

X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units
= $137,681,643.73 (rates less remissions)

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.)
= $0

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)
= 54,195 (exclude 100% remissions)

average residential costs = (X + Y) / Z
= $2,540

Your Request (2 of 5)

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:
X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;
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
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 2019/2020 Financial Year.

Our Response (2 of 5)

X is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*
= $73,094,922 (rates less remissions)

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)
= $8,048,156 (water by meter charges from budget)

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).
= 5,671 (exclude 100% remissions)

average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z
= $14,308

Your Request (3 of 5)

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.

Our Response (3 of 5)

a. One staff member was dismissed due to poor performance during the 2019/20 financial year.
b. We do not hold any information relating to Council Controlled Organisations.
c. Hamilton City Council has 192 employees who receive remuneration greater than $100,000. We do not hold any information relating to Council Controlled Organisations.
d. Hamilton City Council has 11 employees who receive remuneration greater than $200,000. We do not hold any information relating to Council Controlled Organisations.

As we do not hold any information for the CCO's, we have contacted them separately to request a response to this request. That being said, we will be able to provide an informative response in due course.

Your Request (4 of 5)

4. **Audit and Risk Oversight**
    a. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?
    b. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?
    c. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?
    d. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?
    e. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?
    f. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?

Our Response (4 of 5)

a. Hamilton City Council operates a Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee. The Committee has eight members.
b. Yes, the Committee has three independent members.
c. Yes.
d. No.
e. Yes.
f. Members of the Committee are subject to the standards set out in the Elected members Code of Conduct. The Code includes guidance on the relationship between Elected members and staff.

Your Request (5 of 5)

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.

Our Response (5 of 5)

a. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST. $6,792.34
b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST. $110,017.37
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. $42,917.57

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Kind Regards,

Tatiyana | Official Information & Legal Support Advisor
Legal Services & Risk | People and Organisational Performance
Email: officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 April 2021 9:29 AM
To: "info@hcc.govt.nz" <info@hcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: 2021 Ratepayers' Report

Warning! This message was sent from outside your organization and we are unable to verify the sender.

Please note this LGOIMA request is well overdue.

From: [redacted]
Date: Monday, 8 March 2021 at 1:57 PM
Subject: 2021 Ratepayers' Report

Good afternoon,

The Taxpayers' Union is in the process of preparing the 2021 Ratepayers' Report for the 19/20 financial year. Last year's report was published much later than anticipated due to Covid-19, but we are back on schedule for this year's release towards the end of April – date TBC.

We are pleased to inform you that this is the only LGOIMA request you will receive in relation to the 2021 report. You will note that the amount of information requested is *significantly* less than in previous years. For this reason, however, we will not be delaying publication due to the Council requesting extensions.

If you have any questions, please reply directly to this email.

Regards,

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

This is a request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Please use **GST inclusive** figures where applicable.

I request the following information for the **2019/20 Financial Year**:

2. **Average residential rates**
   <!--[if !supportLists]-->a. <!--[endif]-->The average **residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average residential costs = (X + Y) / Z.**
      <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:
         <!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->**X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->**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

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->**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).

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

<!--[if !supportLists]-->**2.** <!--[endif]-->**Average non-residential rates**

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

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]--> Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->**X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->**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

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->**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 2019/2020 Financial Year.**

4. 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.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->d. <!--[endif]-->The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of $200,000.

5. Audit and Risk Oversight

g. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?
h. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?
i. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?
j. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?
k. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?
l. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?

6. Payments to third parties

d. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.
e. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.

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