

From: Official Information
Sent: Wednesday, 7 December 2022 1:30 pm
To: 7(2)(a)
Cc: Official Information
Subject: Final Response - LGOIMA 296333 - 7(2)(a) - estimates on the value of three waters debt/assets and copies of three waters proposed staff transition guidelines

Kia Ora,

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

Your Request 1:

Copies of any estimates on the value of three waters debt and assets as at 30th June 2022 and any consolidated reporting undertaken by officials.

Our Response 1:

Information prepared for public consultation in June/July 2022 advised Hamilton has around \$1.6 billion in waters-related assets. Not all these assets would transfer to the new entity. Information supplied to Government by Council as the reform developed forecast Hamilton has around \$370 million of debt related to water services. Government has not yet confirmed how it will calculate the amount of waters debt which would transfer from Hamilton City Council to the new entity.

These figures are estimates as it is not yet possible to specifically identify Hamilton's 'Three Waters Debt' in the context of Government's reform.

Financial Reporting rules do not require Hamilton City Council to account for debt at an individual activity level, so debt relating to one business area (ie: wastewater, transport, community facilities) is not available. Levels of debt are also changing, so any calculation of debt relating to a specified activity requires identifying a point in time to report against. Identifying Three Waters debt in relation to Government's reform programme can only be calculated when DIA provides detailed information on timing and methodology. This information is not yet available. As this information does not exist, we are refusing this part of the request per s17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

Your Request 1a:

How does the above information compare and contrast to estimates provided to in 2020 at both a territorial authority and consolidated level.

Our Response 1a:

Council has not done any comparative assessment of current or projected financial data versus information supplied under the RFI in 2020. As this information does not exist, we are refusing this part of the request per s17(e) of the LGOIMA.

Your Request 2:

Copies of Three waters proposed staff transition guidelines that outline the transfer and recruitment of staff to the water services entities including those prepared in July 2022 and updated in late 2022, including any information re implementation timelines.

Our Response 2:

The proposed guidelines were released by Department of Internal Affairs and the National Transition Unit in July and are publicly available here. The document includes an implementation timeline.

Hamilton City Council has not yet received updated guidelines. The National Transition Unit has indicated they will be available in late 2022. Updated information is being released via the NTU on a dedicated website. We recommend contacting the NTU for this information when available via [Te Rapunga](#).

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,

Laura | Official Information Coordinator

Governance & Assurance Team | People and Organisational Performance

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