


From: [Official Information](#)
To: 
Cc: [Official Information](#)
Subject: Final response - LGOIMA 387574 - Unpaid rates
Date: Thursday, 4 April 2024 8:24:33 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

Kia ora,

We refer to your information request below. Hamilton City Council provides the following response.

Your request:

The number of properties refusing to pay their rates?
The total dollar amount of properties who have not paid their rates?
The reasons given for not paying their rates?
The number of properties in arrears with their rates?
The dollar amount of properties in arrears?
The reasons given for being in arrears?
The number of properties who are recognised under He Whakaputanga?
The total dollar amount the Hamilton City Council receives from Rates?

Our response:

Reference to 'rates arrears' represents total rates that remains outstanding from prior rating years (pre-1 July 2023). The figures stated below are as of 26 March 2024, and include GST.

1. **The number of properties refusing to pay their rates?**

We are aware of 21 properties that have rates outstanding from previous years, where the ratepayer has told us they are refusing to pay rates.

2. **The total dollar amount of properties who have not paid their rates?**

Of those 21 properties, there is \$107,676 (GST included) outstanding from previous years.

3. **The reasons given for not paying their rates?**

In general terms, the reasons provided include:

- The ratepayer believes they are not bound by New Zealand law, or their interpretation of the law does not require them to pay rates.
- Protest to Council's actions in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. **The number of properties in arrears with their rates?**

5. **The dollar amount of properties in arrears?**

The term 'rates arrears' represents total rates (including GST) that remains outstanding from prior rating years. A rating year runs from 1 July – 30 June. These balances include situations where there are payments arrangements in place to clear outstanding rates over a period of time.

For years 2020 – 2023 we have included the numbers of ratepayers with less than \$100 in arrears. This is to provide context, as often there are small balances brough forward from a prior year that are paid early within the following rating year.

| Rates Arrears balances | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Rates Arrears \$ value outstanding | Number of ratepayers | |
| End of year 30/06/2020 | \$ 4,195,899 | 3,983 | *841 ratepayers less than \$100 |
| End of year 30/06/2021 | \$ 4,079,460 | 3,781 | *677 ratepayers less than \$100 |
| End of year 30/06/2022 | \$ 5,652,392 | 3,868 | *509 ratepayers less than \$100 |
| End of year 30/06/2023 | \$ 7,229,785 | 4,730 | *732 ratepayers less than \$100 |
| | | | |
| End of month 31 Jul 2023 | \$ 6,239,856 | 3,596 | |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------|
| End of month 31 Aug 2023 | \$ 5,137,547 | 2,627 |
| End of month 30 Sep 2023 | \$ 4,403,969 | 2,035 |
| End of month 31 Oct 2023 | \$ 3,896,678 | 1,695 |
| End of month 30 Nov 2023 | \$ 3,428,080 | 1,424 |
| End of month 31 Dec 2023 | \$ 3,056,052 | 1,241 |
| End of month 31 Jan 2024 | \$ 2,696,625 | 1,058 |
| End of month 29 Feb 2024 | \$ 2,126,425 | 836 |
| End of month 31 March 2024 | \$ 1,709,666 | 677 |

6. **The reasons given for being in arrears?**

This is not often provided, and we do not keep data on this. Reasons for arrears can range from a person actively communicating that they will not pay their rates (see above) to financial challenges – such as cashflow or loss on income, to errors, such as insufficient funds for direct debits, or simply forgetting to pay a quarterly invoice.

In general terms, a ratepayer may not necessarily engage with Council around unpaid rates.

Where there are outstanding rates and where there is no payment arrangement in place, Council will follow the provisions as set out within the Local Government (Rating) 2002 for recovery of unpaid rates.

7. **The number of properties who are recognised under He Whakaputanga?**

Zero - He Whakaputanga is not recognised under current rating legislation. There are specific provisions in relation to land classified as Maaori customary and freehold land, but these do not relate to He Whakaputanga.

8. **The total dollar amount the Hamilton City Council receives from Rates?**

For 2023/24 - \$283.58m (rates after remissions)

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.

Ngaa mihi

Keeley Faulkner

Official Information Coordinator

Governance & Assurance Team | Business Services

Email: officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz



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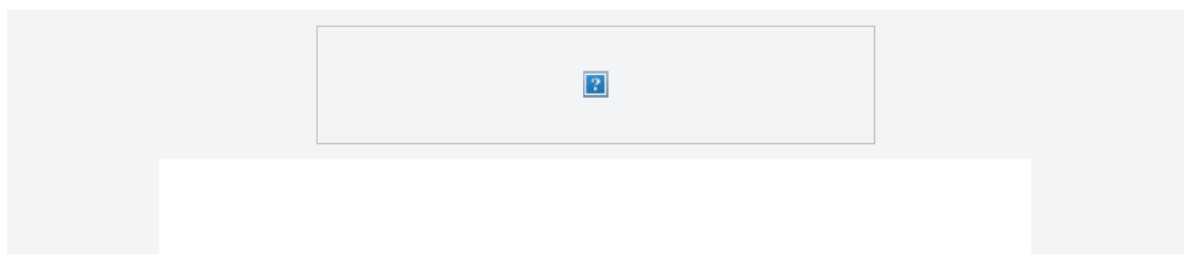
I support flexibility at work. While it suits me to send this email now, I don't expect a response outside of your own working hours.

From: noreply@hamilton.govt.nz <noreply@hamilton.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 10:07 PM

To: Official Information <officialinformation@hcc.govt.nz>

Subject: OIA Request - HCC-OIA-240305-RN85G



We've received a request for you.

This request was received on 05 March 2024 @ 10:06PM.

Here's your reference number and the request details:

UUID

HCC-OIA-240305-RN85G

Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Detailed description of request

Dear Hamilton City Council
Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA), I request the following information:

The number of properties refusing to pay their rates?
The total dollar amount of properties who have not paid their rates?

The reasons given for not paying their rates?

The number of properties in arrears with their rates?

The dollar amount of properties in arrears?

The reasons given for being in arrears?

The number of properties who are recognised under He Whakaputanga?

The total dollar amount the Hamilton City Council receives from Rates?

Thanking you in advance

Organisation

Attachments

Created

05 March 2024 @ 10:06PM

If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to call us on [\(07\) 838 6699](tel:078386699) or [email our customer service team](#).