

**From:** [Official Information](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Official Information](#)  
**Subject:** Final response - LGOIMA 425170 [REDACTED] - Rates rebate Remissions  
**Date:** Wednesday, 2 October 2024 12:16:51 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)

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Kia ora,

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

**Your request:**

1. *Does the council allow rates postponement for individuals undergoing extreme financial hardship? If yes, what's the threshold to be considered?*
2. *Does the council allow rates postponement for individuals above the age of 65?*
3. *Does the council allow rates remission for individuals undergoing extreme financial hardship? If yes, what's the threshold to be considered?*
4. *Does the council allow rates remission for individuals above the age of 65?*
5. *The annual number of applications the council has received for rates postponement between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.*
6. *The annual number of applications the council granted for rates postponement between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.*
7. *The annual number of applications the council has received for rates remission between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.*
8. *The annual number of applications the council granted for rates remission between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.*

**Our response:**

1. **Does the council allow rates postponement for individuals undergoing extreme financial hardship? If yes, what's the threshold to be considered?**

Yes. Council does also offer rates postponement for low-income ratepayers. A ratepayer must qualify for the Council Rates Rebate to be eligible for Rates Postponement. (See answer to Q3.)

2. **Does the council allow rates postponement for individuals above the age of 65?**

No, unless they are low-income. The eligibility criteria are not age-related.

3. **Does the council allow rates remission for individuals undergoing extreme financial hardship? If yes, what's the threshold to be considered?**

Yes. Hamilton City Council offers a rates remission called the 'Council Rates Rebate' to assist ratepayers on a low income. This is additional to the Rates Rebate offered by

Government. You can find more information about this on our website:

<https://hamilton.govt.nz/do-it-online/apply-for-it/rebates/>

For 2024/25 the maximum amount of the Council Rates Rebate is \$788.

Income qualification is assessed on total gross household income (of all owners). For the 2024/25 rating year (01/07/24 – 30/06/25) income is assessed on the 2023/24 tax year (01/04/23 – 31/03/24). The income threshold for qualification is similar to the Government Rates Rebate. The higher a property's rates, the more the ratepayer may earn and qualify. Dependent children also increase the income threshold by \$500 per child.

For 2024/25 a ratepayer who owns a median residential property would pay rates of \$3,306 and may qualify for some amount of Council Rates Rebate with income up to \$48,740, or the full rebate up to \$42,600 (with no dependents). For properties that pay lower rates, this will be lower. For properties that pay higher rates, this will be higher.

The criteria for the Council Rate Rebate include:

- the applicant must be the property owner and be living at the property at the last 1 July
- companies and trusts are not eligible
- the applicant must have savings and other investments of less than \$30,000.

The maximum rebate, income threshold, and savings limit increase annually.

4. **Does the council allow rates remission for individuals above the age of 65?**

No, unless they are low-income. The eligibility criteria are not age-related.

5. **The annual number of applications the council has received for rates postponement between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.**

We do not track the number of applications received for rates postponement. We only track the number of rates postponements granted.

6. **The annual number of applications the council granted for rates postponement between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.**

See table below.

7. **The annual number of applications the council has received for rates remission between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.**

We do not track the number of applications received for rates rebates. We only track the number of rates rebates granted. Organisations are not eligible for rates rebates.

8. **The annual number of applications the council granted for rates remission between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.**

	Rates postponed	Council rates rebates granted
2018/19	1	547
2019/20	1	478
2020/21	0	420

2021/22	0	403
2022/23	0	370
2023/24	0	380

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.

**Ngaa mihi**

**Keeley Faulkner**

**Official Information Coordinator**

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Governance & Assurance Team | Partnerships, communication & Maaori

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 4:11 PM

**To:** undisclosed-recipients:

**Subject:** LGOIMA [REDACTED] 09Sep

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Kia ora team,

This is a request under the Official Information Act 1982. Please confirm and provide the following information.

9. Does the council allow rates postponement for individuals undergoing extreme financial hardship? If yes, what's the threshold to be considered?
10. Does the council allow rates postponement for individuals above the age of 65?
11. Does the council allow rates remission for individuals undergoing extreme financial hardship? If yes, what's the threshold to be considered?

12. Does the council allow rates remission for individuals above the age of 65?
13. The annual number of applications the council has received for rates postponement between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.
14. The annual number of applications the council granted for rates postponement between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.
15. The annual number of applications the council has received for rates remission between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.
16. The annual number of applications the council granted for rates remission between the period 2018/19, to 2023/24. Please split by application from individuals and application from organisations.

Please provide any tabled data in csv/xlsx format. Happy to clarify any questions.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

Reporter

M 64 21 243 9161

[REDACTED]

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