

From: [Official Information](#)
To: ratepayers.report@taxpayers.org.nz
Cc: [Official Information](#)
Subject: Final response - LGOIMA 371586 - Taxpayers union - Ratepayers report FY 22/23
Date: Wednesday, 7 February 2024 5:28:22 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[LGOIMA 371586 - Taxpayers Union - Rates for 2022-23 Year.pdf](#)

Kia ora,

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

Your request:

*I request the following information for the **2022/23 Financial Year**:*

1. Average residential rates

- *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).*
- *If possible, the median residential rates payment by residential units.*

Please include all residential rates in this calculation, regardless of location, as we are aiming to compare residential rating units (i.e. non-income producing) to non-residential (commercial/rural, income-producing).

2. Average non-residential rates

- *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*
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- *Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example, retail sales of Council rubbish bags).*
- *If possible, the median non-residential rates payment for the council.*

****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 2022/2023 Financial Year.***

3. Personnel

- *The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.*
- *If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.*
- *If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed by the council, excluding council-controlled organisations.*
- *The total number of staff (non-FTE, including casual staff)*
- *The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.*
- *The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.*

3.1. Management

- *The FTE number of managers employed.*
 - *The Taxpayer's Union defines a manager as: any staff member who is responsible for a team of staff, or who has an employee/employees reporting to them and organises them to achieve their department's or organisation's specified goal. The Chief Executive team is included in this definition.*
- *The ratio of management to total staff numbers.*
- *The average and median salary of a manager.*

3.2. Communications

- *The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.*
- *The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.*

3.3. Consultants & contractors

- *Total expenditure on consultants and contractors. Please ensure that this includes CAPEX and OPEX spending.*
- *Total number of consultants and contractors paid. Please note that this refers to companies/entities, rather than total employees.*

3.4. Core services

- *The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.*
 - *The Taxpayer's Union defines Infrastructure FTE as hours worked by staff who are directly responsible for maintaining council assets and services, including physical involvement in environmental services, stormwater, roading, water supply, wastewater, and solid waste management.*
- *The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.*
 - *The Taxpayer's Union defines Regulatory FTE as hours worked by staff who are directly responsible for upkeeping and enforcing council functions and income, including parking, democracy services, rates collection, building and planning consents, and health licensing.*
- *The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.*
 - *The Taxpayer's Union defines Customer Service FTE as hours worked by staff who are directly responsible for communicating and providing aid for members of the public, such as at libraries, pools, art galleries, venues and events and customer services, whether in person or by phone.*

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

- *How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?*
- *Of those members, how many are elected and how many are independent of the council?*
- *Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?*
- *Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?*
- *Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate or a full member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand) on the Committee?*

- *Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?*

5. Payments to third parties

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

6. Debt

- *Net debt (total for the council) as a percent of rates income*
- *The dollar amount of debt per rating unit*
- *The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit*

Our response:

1. Average residential rates

- **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:**
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- **If possible, the median residential rates payment by residential units.**

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- If possible, the median non-residential rates payment for the council.

*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 2022/2023 Financial Year.

Please see attached.

3. Personnel

- The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
 - If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.
 - If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed by the council, excluding council-controlled organisations.
 - The total number of staff (non-FTE, including casual staff)
 - The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
 - The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.
- 4 Staff
 - Awaiting Data
 - At 31 March 2023 FTE was 1266
 - As 31 March 2023 Headcount was 1504
 - Awaiting data
 - Awaiting data

3.1. Management

- The FTE number of managers employed.
 - The Taxpayer's Union defines a manager as: any staff member who is responsible for a team of staff, or who has an employee/employees reporting to them and organises them to achieve their department's or organisation's specified goal. The Chief Executive team is included in this definition.
- The ratio of management to total staff numbers.
- The average and median salary of a manager.

Headcount	FTE
279	271.7375

- 5.39:1

ADV	Median
\$124,155.39	\$119,140.00

-

3.2. Communications

- The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.
- The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.
- Awaiting data.

ADV	Median
\$93,290.81	\$73,500.00

-

3.3. Consultants & contractors

- Total expenditure on consultants and contractors. Please ensure that this includes CAPEX and OPEX spending.
- Total number of consultants and contractors paid. Please note that this refers to companies/entities, rather than total employees.

-

OPEX CATEGORY IN ANNUAL REPORT	EXPENSE TYPE	2022-23 VALUE	NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS
Personnel Costs	Externally Contracted Staff	\$2,603,010	37
Professional Costs	Consultants	\$13,968,896	272
Operating &	Contractors	\$45,798,354	208

Maintenance			
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CAPEX SPEND	2022-23 VALUE	NUMBER OF SUPPLIERS
Contractors	\$212,851,900	206
Consultants	\$33,625,420	172

-

3.4. Core services

- The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.
 - The Taxpayer's Union defines Infrastructure FTE as hours worked by staff who are directly responsible for maintaining council assets and services, including physical involvement in environmental services, stormwater, roading, water supply, wastewater, and solid waste management.
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- FTE 218.30
- FTE 203.68
- FTE303.04

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

- How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?
- Of those members, how many are elected and how many are independent of the council?
- Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?
- Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?

- *Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate or a full member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand) on the Committee?*
- *Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?*
- Hamilton City Council operates a Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee. The Committee has ten members.
- Yes, the Committee has two independent members.
- Yes.
- No.
- Yes.
- 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. In addition, Council has a management policy for staff protocols during the election period, new staff who start during the pre-election period are required to undergo training of the on the “staff elections protocols”.

5. Payments to third parties

- *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.*
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- *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.*
- \$2,756.55
- \$113,773.50
- \$65,265.32

6. Debt

- *Net debt (total for the council) as a percent of rates income*
- *The dollar amount of debt per rating unit*
- *The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit*
- Net debt is 2.73 times rates income, or 273%
- \$11,500
- \$650

We please ask if you can bear with us while we await approvals for a couple of the above

questions – we will provide this information not later than **14 February 2024**.

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



Hamilton City Council | Private Bag 3010 | Hamilton 3240 | www.hamilton.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: Rate Payers Report <ratepayers.report@taxpayers.org.nz>

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:12 PM

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

Subject: 20231218 HCC 2024 Ratepayers Report LGOIMA Request

Hello Hamilton City Council,

The Taxpayers' Union is in the process of preparing the 2024 Ratepayers' Report for the 2022/23 financial year.

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 **2022/23 Financial Year**:

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6. Debt

- Net debt (total for the council) as a percent of rates income
- The dollar amount of debt per rating unit
- The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit

We do not wish to cause unnecessary expense or burden on your bureau. If clarification of any of our requests is needed, please call or email. Likewise, if a request proves unnecessarily burdensome in form and we are likely to be able to adjust it to be more specific or better suited to your information systems without losing the benefit of what is sought, please also get in touch. If there is likely to be a delay in being able to assemble or provide some of the information requested, please provide the rest of the information as it becomes available.

To avoid unnecessarily printing and postage costs, we ask that you send a confirmation of receipt, the response and any other correspondence to requests@taxpayers.org.nz. Please include the following reference in the subject line – 20231218 HCC 2024 Ratepayers Report LGOIMA Request.

If you have any questions, please reply directly to this email. We expect a response within twenty working days.

Regards,

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

Email ratepayers.report@taxpayers.org.nz

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Inc. | Main [+64 4 282 0300](tel:+6442820300) | 117 Lambton Quay,
Wellington 6011 | PO Box 10518, The Terrace, Wellington 6143 | www.taxpayers.org.nz

Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance | Main [+64 9 281 5172](tel:+6492815172) | 41 Shortland Street, Auckland
1010 | PO Box 133099, Eastridge, Auckland 1146 | www.ratepayers.nz

We are 100% funded by people like you. If you like what we do, join the [Taxpayers' Union](#) or the [Ratepayers' Alliance](#).