

31 May 2022

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union  
[report@ratepayers.nz](mailto:report@ratepayers.nz)

Dear New Zealand Taxpayers' Union

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2022-31**

Thank you for your email of 3 May 2022 to the Carterton District Council, attached as **Appendix One**.

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act).

My response to your request is in the number order of your request below.

**1. Average residential rates**

The table below shows the average residential costs of rates and other council charges. All values include GST.

	<b>Rates</b>	<b>Charges</b>	<b>Total</b>	
X	4,574,818.83		4,574,818.83	
Y	4,643,660.65	85,162.52	4,728,823.17	
Z			2,549	
Average residential cost of rates and other charges				<b>\$ 3,649.92</b>

## 2. Average non-residential rates

The table below shows the non-residential costs of rates and other Council charges. All Values include GST.

	Rates	Charges	Total	
X	5,607,875.33		5,607,875.33	
Y	1,250,494.90	217,349.69	1,467,844.59	
Z			2,325	
Average non-residential cost of rates and other charges				\$ 3,043.32

## 3. Personnel

1. There have been no staff members dismissed due to poor performance.
2. There are no staff employed by council-controlled organisations (we do not have any council-controlled organisations, and the rest of the questions will be answered on that basis).
3. There are a total of five staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
4. There is one staff member receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

## 5. Audit and Risk Oversight

1. There are six members on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee.
2. Yes, the Council independent Chair and Marae representative.
3. Yes, the Chair is an independent member.
4. No, the Committee does not have a lawyer with a current practicing certificate.
5. Yes, the Committee has an accountant with a current practicing certificate.
6. Your question "Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff" appears to have a broad interpretation. In response to this question, the Council have separate code of conducts for the staff, and the Elected Members. The Code of Conduct Policy for staff does require staff to be politically neutral.

## 6. Payments to third parties

1. Payments made by the Council to Wairarapa Chamber of Commerce in the 2020/21 year totaled \$2,915.25.
2. Payments made by the Council to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) in the 2020/21 year totaled \$27,760.49.
3. Payments made by the Council to New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) (name change 21 July 2021 to SOLGM T/A Taituatara) in the 2020/21 year totaled \$12,679.75.

Please note, the Council now proactively publishes LGOIMA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoff Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Geoff Hamilton  
**Chief Executive**  
**Carterton District Council**

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA

# Appendix One

**From:** [Council Info Mailbox](#)  
**To:** [LGOIMA Requests](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ratepayers' Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, 3 May 2022 2:35:16 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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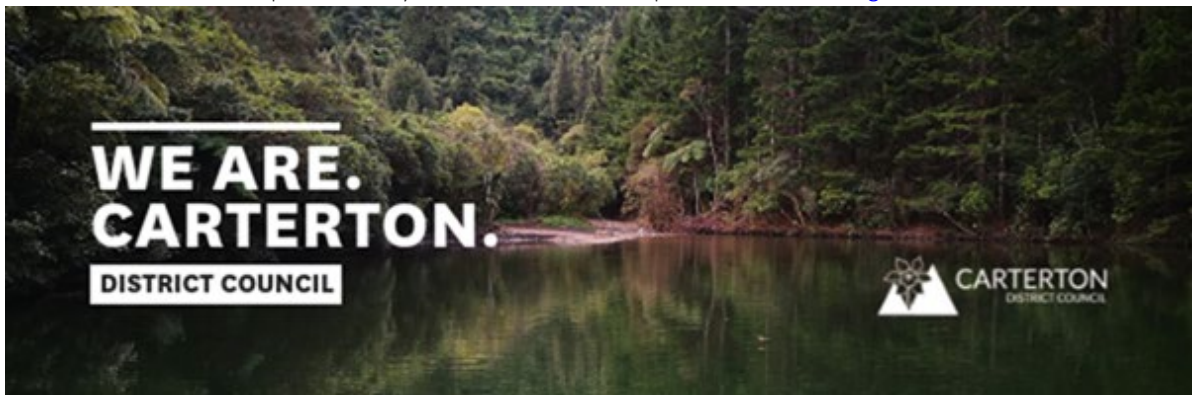
Nga Mihi,  
Katrina King



**KATRINA KING** | Customer Services Officer | **CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Phone: 06 379 4030 | Email: [katrina@cdc.govt.nz](mailto:katrina@cdc.govt.nz)

PO Box 9 Carterton 5743 | 28 Holloway Street Carterton 5713 | Website: [www.cdc.govt.nz](http://www.cdc.govt.nz)



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**From:** Ratepayers' Report <[report@ratepayers.nz](mailto:report@ratepayers.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 May 2022 2:22 pm

**To:** Council Info Mailbox <[info@cdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@cdc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Ratepayers' Report

Good afternoon,

The Taxpayers' Union is in the process of preparing the 2022 Ratepayers' Report for the 2020/21 financial year.

**We are pleased to inform you that this is the only LGOIMA request you will receive in relation to the 2022 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 **2020/21 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).

### 2. Average non-residential rates

1. 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 2020/2021 Financial Year.**

**1. Personnel**

1. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
2. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.
3. 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.

**1. Audit and Risk Oversight**

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

**1. Payments to third parties**

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