

12 July 2022



Dear 

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2022-36

Thank you for your email of 7 June 2022 to the Carterton District Council requesting the following information:

"...information from your organisation, for each financial year: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and for the partial year of 2022 to date:

1. *Number of [Full-time equivalent] FTE communications/media staff employed in each year (this includes all internal and external communications staff/content producers and social media staff).*
2. *The salary range paid to communications staff in each year.*
3. *Number of communications/media contractors used in each year.*
4. *Total sum paid to communications contractors in each year.*
5. *A breakdown of positions and numbers employed in each role (ie how many media advisors, senior media advisors, internal communications, managers, social media producers/managers).*
6. *How many media queries received in each year?*
7. *How many interview requests received in each year?*
8. *How many media interviews given, and to which media organisations and when?*
9. *Total salary costs for communications staff each year.*
10. *In each year, how many communications staff paid a salary more than \$100,000 per annum and \$200,000 per annum."*

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

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

1. Number of FTE communications/media staff employed in each year (this includes all internal and external communications staff/content producers and social media staff).

The number of FTE communications employed in each of the financial year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 is provided in the table below.

Each Financial Year: 1 July – 30 June	FTE Numbers
2017	1
2018	1
2019	1
2020	1.5
2021	2.5
2022	2.5

2. The salary range paid to communications staff in each year.

The Council uses the Strategic Pay (SP) to benchmark our salary ranges. For the each of the financial years requested, the SP ranges are in the table below.

Each Financial Year: 1 July – 30 June	Communications and Engagement Team Leader	Communications and Engagement Coordinator	Communications and Engagement Assistant
2017	N/A	\$68,291 - \$92,393	N/A
2018	N/A	\$70,563 - \$94,618	N/A
2019	N/A	\$75,747 - \$101,570	N/A
2020	N/A	\$75,747 - \$101,570	\$52,914 - \$70,953
2021	\$76,894 - \$103,107	\$76,894 - \$103,107	\$52,966 - \$71,023
2022	\$79,200 - \$106,200	\$79,200 - \$106,201	\$54,560 - \$73,160

3. Number of communications/media contractors used in each year.

For the financial year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 there were no communications/media contractors used in each year.

For this current year 2022, in terms of the communications for the District Plan review, we used a contractor from Masterton District Council.

4. Total sum paid to communications contractors in each year.

As there were no communications media contractors in each of the financial year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 no sum was paid.

For this current year 2022 we have paid \$6,734.75 for the contractor's services being a 25.5% share of the direct costs.

5. A breakdown of positions and numbers employed in each role (ie how many media advisors, senior media advisors, internal communications, managers, social media producers/managers).

The breakdown of positions and numbers employed in each role in each of the financial year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 is provided in the table below.

Each Financial Year: 1 July – 30 June	FTE Positions	Numbers
2017	FTE Communications and Engagement Coordinator	1
2018	FTE Communications and Engagement Coordinator	1
2019	FTE Communications and Engagement Coordinator	1
2020	FTE Communications and Engagement Senior Advisor FTE Communications Assistant/Events centre Venue Assistant	1 0.5
2021	FTE Communications and Engagement Team Leader FTE Communications and Engagement Coordinator FTE Communications Assistant/Events Centre Assistant	1 1 0.5
2022	FTE Communications and Engagement Team Leader FTE Communications and Engagement Coordinator FTE Communications Assistant/Events Centre Venue Assistant	1 1 0.5

6. How many media queries received in each year?

I have interpreted this part of your question as how many media requests were received in each of the financial year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 as a LGOIMA request. The numbers media requests received are in the table below.

Each Financial Year: 1 July – 30 June	Total number of media requests received
2017 - 2018	28
2018 - 2019	15
2019-2020	15
2020-2021	15
2021-2022	12

7. How many interview requests received in each year?

Prior to 2022, interview requests were received by telephone or email communication. No recorded data were made for each of the financial 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The information that you are requesting will require substantial collation or research.

I am refusing the information on the interview requests received in each financial year under section 7(2)(a) of the Act for the reason that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

8. How many media interviews given, and to which media organisations and when?

Prior to 2022, media interviews given, and which media organisations were received by telephone or email communication. No recorded data were made for each of the financial 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The information that you are requesting will require substantial collation or research.

I am refusing the information on the media interviews given, and which media organisations received in each financial year under section 7(2)(a) of the Act for the reason that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

9. Total salary costs for communications staff each year.

I have interpreted this part of your request as the total remuneration of each individual communication staff paid. As this question would engage in each of the staff's individual privacy, I am refusing this part of your request under section 7(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

10. In each year, how many communications staff paid a salary more than \$100,000 per annum and \$200,000 per annum.

For each of the financial year: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and for the partial year of 2022, no communications staff were paid a salary more than \$100,000 and \$200,000 per annum.

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. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at comms@cdc.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council