

9 March 2023

New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
requests@taxpayers.org.nz.

Dear New Zealand Taxpayer's Union

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2023-05

Thank you for your email of 31 January 2023 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).

In the number order of your request, below is my response to your request.

1. Average residential rates

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

	Rates	Charges	Total	
X	\$4,846,248.63		\$4,846,248.63	
Y	\$5,207,079.01	\$85,167.39	\$5,292,246.40	
Z		2,574		
Average residential cost of rates and other charges				\$3,094.43

2. Average-non-residential rates

	Rates	Charges	Total	
X	\$5,534,767.76		\$5,534,767.76	
Y	\$1,506,037.53	\$296,086.64	\$1,802,124.17	
Z			2,371	
Average non-residential cost of rates and other charges				\$3,094.43

3. Personal

- a. There have been no staff members dismissed due to poor performance.

- b. Not applicable as we have no staff employed by council-controlled organisations, and the rest of the questions will be answered on that basis.
- c. The total number of staff employed is 59.
- d. The total number of staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000 is 6.
- e. The total number of staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000 is 1.

Management

1. The ratio of management to staff is 6 (Executive team, includes tier 1 and 2 managers), ratio is 1:9 (rounded).
2. The average and median salary of a manager is, \$142,696 and \$132,500.

Communication

1. The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed is 2.75.
2. The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff is for Average: \$76,800.
The information on median salary of communications and marketing staff is withheld for the reason the salary details would identify specific employees. Therefore, 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.
3. The total expenditure on marketing and communication in 2022 was \$60,327.

Consultants and contractors

1. Total expenditure on consultants and contractors that would normally be filled by personal (usually temporary until position filled) \$309,141.74 including GST.
2. Total number of consultants and contractors paid during the year that would normally be filled by personal (usually temporary until positions filled) 11.

Core services

- a. The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure is 18.
- b. The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions is 5.
- c. The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles is 10.

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

- a. The number of members that are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee is 6.
- b. Yes, the Council have independent member on the Committee. Independent Chair and Marae representative.
- c. Yes, the Chair of the Committee is an independent member.
- d. No, the Council does not have a lawyer with a current practising certificate on the Committee.
- e. Yes, the Council has an accountant with a current practising certificate on the Committee, the accountant is the Chair.

28 Holloway Street, Carterton, Wairarapa | PO Box 9, Carterton, 5743 |
lgoima@cdc.govt.nz | 06 379 4030 | www.cdc.govt.nz

LGOIMA ID: 2023-05

- f. 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.

5. Payments to third parties

- a. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST is \$20700.00.
- b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST is \$32440.80.
- c. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST is \$15664.60.

6. Debt

1. Net debt as a percent of rates income is 16%.
2. The dollar amount of debt per rating unit \$414,441.47.
3. The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit \$21.00.

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 or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Hamilton
Chief Executive
Carterton District Council

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Appendix One

From: [Council Info Mailbox](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 31 January 2023 10:21 am
To: [LGOIMA Requests](#)
Subject: FW: Local Government Information Request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Eve McCallum <eve@taxpayers.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 January 2023 10:05 am
To: Council Info Mailbox <info@cdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Local Government Information Request

Caution: This email originated from outside the council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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

If you have any questions, please reply directly to this email. Please send responses to requests@taxpayers.org.nz.

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 **2021/22 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:
 - o **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;
 - o **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
 - o **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

a. 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:
 - o **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;
 - o **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
 - o **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 2021/2022 Financial Year.

3. Personnel

- a. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
- b. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.
- c. If applicable, the total FTE number of staff employed, including those employed by council-controlled organisations.
- d. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
- e. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

3.1. Management

1. The FTE number of managers employed. Please confirm the ratio of management to staff.
2. The average and median salary of a manager.

3.2. Communications

1. The FTE number of communications & marketing staff employed.
2. The average and median salary of communications & marketing staff.
3. Total expenditure on communications & marketing.

3.3. Consultants & contractors

1. Total expenditure on consultants and contractors.
2. Total number of consultants and contractors paid.

3.4. Core services

- a. The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure.
 - b. The FTE number of staff employed to provide regulatory functions.
 - c. The FTE number of staff employed in customer-facing roles.

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

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

5. Payments to third parties

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

1. Net debt as a percent of rates income
2. The dollar amount of debt per rating unit
3. The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit