

9 April 2024



Dear

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2024-15

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2024 to the Carterton District Council (CDC) attached as **Appendix A.**

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 order below.

"... information relating to funds paid to Taituarā – formally known as the NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM). Please provide for the 2023 calendar year: A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā

1. For each payment:

- a. the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for this information should be easily available from the Council's accounting system. The source documents (invoice) are not requested/required (the description copied from the Council's accounting/records system is fine).**

Table below provides all our payments made for the 2023 calendar year.

SOL04 Taituara - 2023			
Date	Invoice	Amount	Discount / References / Details
23/01/2023	15955	\$ 621.00	Order:108759 Risk Management Webinar
23/02/2023	16292	\$ 2,070.00	Order:109079 3 x tickets for LTP Road Show
23/02/2023	INV-00011576	\$ 287.50	Order:109062 LTP Starter Kit Webinar
20/03/2023	16497	\$ 724.50	Order:109351 Representation Review Forum – Democratic Services Officer
28/03/2023	16581	\$ 621.00	Order:109429 Representation Review Forum – Corporate Manager

SOL04 Taituara - 2023			
Date	Invoice	Amount	Discount / References / Details
28/03/2023	16580	\$ 287.50	Order:109430 LGOIMA and the Privacy Act Webinar 23 May 2023
4/05/2023	16860	\$ 287.50	Order:109796 Webinar: Embedding climate change in the 2024 LTPs in on 26 May 23
4/05/2023	16859	\$ 287.50	Order:109796 Webinar: Climate change and decision-making in on 24 May 23
6/06/2023	17154	\$ 207.00	Order:110142 CE Gala Dinner
17/07/2023	INV-00011916	\$ 2,846.25	Order:110727 Taituara Membership Subscriptions 2023/24
26/07/2023	INV-00012028	\$ 2,530.00	Order:110727 Taituara Membership Subscriptions 2023/24
14/08/2023	INV-00012061	\$ 10,069.24	Order:111125 SectorGood Work Programme - Annual Subscription for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024
22/08/2023	17764	\$ 373.75	Order:111183 The July Legislative Changes and the 2024 LTP in on 23 Aug 23 Webinar
19/09/2023	17894	\$ 1,667.50	Order:111575 Writing for local govt decisions training
11/10/2023	17981	\$ 373.75	Order:111856 Taituara Wellbeing Survey Result Webinar
		\$ 23,253.99	

b. whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.

No costs were recovered from our employees.

Given the nature of Taituarā as a membership organisation – in effect the employment union for local government managers – if membership dues are not recovered or deducted, please provide:

a. the reasoning (if any) for not deducting the amounts (i.e. Why should ratepayers pay for a private organisation/benefit?)

CDC does not deduct membership dues as Taituarā provides professional development opportunities for staff as part of their training in specialised / subject matter expert roles.

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

LGOIMA ID: 2024-15

- b. If the Council considers that the membership for Council officers is as part of their role at the Council (and therefore not for private benefit) please provide this information and explain how Taituarā is not therefore treated as a CCO under s 6(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the purposes of the Council group's statutory reporting.**

Taituarā does not meet the legal definition of a CCO. It is the individual not the council that is a member of Taituarā. No local authority or group of local authorities own or control 50 percent or more of the voting rights at any meeting of Taituarā, nor does any local authority or group of local authorities have the right to appoint 50 percent or more of the members of our governing body.

Please note, the Council 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 A

From: [Council Info Mailbox](#)
Sent: Thursday, 28 March 2024 12:57 pm
To: [LGOIMA Requests](#)
Subject: FW: SOLGM - Request for information -

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:54 PM
Subject: SOLGM - Request for information -

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.

Hi there,

This is a request for official information relating to funds paid to Taituarā – formally known as the NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).

Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:

1. A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā
2. For each payment:
 - a. the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for* and
 - b. whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.

Given the nature of Taituarā as a membership organisation – in effect the employment union for local government managers – if membership dues are not recovered or deducted, please provide:

- a. the reasoning (if any) for not deducting the amounts (i.e. Why should ratepayers pay for a private organisation/benefit?) and
- b. whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?

If the Council considers that the membership for Council officers is *as part of their role at the Council* (and therefore not for private benefit) please provide this information and explain how Taituarā is not therefore treated as a CCO under s 6(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the purposes of the Council group's statutory reporting.

If you require clarification of any of the matters contained in this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please also note that this request, and the Council's response – including the time taken to provide the sought information – may be made publicly available.

*this information should be easily available from the Council's accounting system. The source documents (invoice) are not requested/required (the description copied from the Council's accounting/records system is fine).

Regards

