

2 February 2024

Rate Payers
Taxpayers Union
ratepayers.report@taxpayers.org.nz

Tēnā koe

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT Request: 2023-94

Thank you for your email of 18 December 2023 to the Carterton District Council, attached as **Appendix One. The following information is for the 2022/23 Financial Year.**

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (the Act). In response to your request, my response is in the number order below.

1. Average residential rates

	Rates	Charges	Total
X	5,660,783.06		5,660,783.06
Y	5,762,951.70	87,384.77	5,850,336.48
Z		2,679	
Average residential cost of rates and other charges			\$ 4,296.80

2. Average non-residential rates

	Rates	Charges	Total
X	6,407,236.32		6,407,236.32
Y	2,018,741.40	329,732.28	2,348,473.67
Z		2,451	
Average residential cost of rates and other charges			\$ 3,572.30

3. Personnel

- There have been no staff members dismissed due to poor performance.
- 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. Not applicable as we have no total FTE number of staff employed by the council, excluding council-controlled organisations.
- d. Total number of employed staff (non-FTE, including casual staff) is 104.
- e. The total number of staff receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000 is 13.
- f. The total number of staff receiving remuneration of excess of \$200,000 is One.

Management

1. The FTE number of managers employed is 15.
2. The ratio management of total staff numbers is 15 managers; 82 staff = 1:5.
3. The manager salary average is \$119,115 and median \$120,615.

Communications

1. The FTE number of communications and marketing staff employed is 2.75.
2. The communications and marketing staff salary is average \$76,477 and median \$88,400.

Consultants & Contractors

1. The total expenditure on consultants and contractor that includes CAPEX and OPEX spending is \$1,093,862.80 including GST.
2. The total number of consultants and contractors paid during the year that would normally be filled by personal (usually temporary until positions is filled) is 62.

Core services

- a. The FTE number of staff employed to work on the delivery and/or maintenance of local infrastructure is 32.23
- b. The FTE staff employed to provide regulatory functions is 12.45.
- c. The FTE staff employed in customer-facing roles is 14.85.

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

- a. The number of members that are on the Council's Risk and Assurance Committee is six.
- b. Of those members, there are four elected members and two independent members.
- c. Yes, the Chair of the Committee is an independent member.
- d. No, the Council does not have a lawyer with a current practicing certificate on the Committee.
- e. Yes, Council has two members with current practicing certificate on the Committee.
- f. Yes, Council has 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 is \$20,125.00.
- b. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST is \$34,402.24.

- 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 \$19,586.06.

6. Debt

- a. Net debt (total for the Council) as a percent of rates income is 106%.
- b. The dollar amount of debt per rating unit is \$3,391.81.
- c. The dollar amount of interest paid per rating unit is \$82.35.

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

Appendix One

From: LGOIMA Requests

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:19 PM

To: ratepayers.report@taxpayers.org.nz

Subject: Acknowledgement: LGOIMA Request: 2023-94

Kia ora

LGOIMA Request: 2023-94

Thank you for your email request below received on 18 December 2023.

Your request is being handled under the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act (1987). You can expect a reply no later than **Wednesday 7 February 2024**, which is 20 working days from the date we received your request. The response date shown takes into account summer holidays (20 December to 10 January), and Waitangi Day (6 February 2024).

Ngā mihi



SERAH PETTIGREW | Democratic Services Officer | Executive Assistant to Mayor

CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Email: serah@cdc.govt.nz

PO Box 9 Carterton 5743 | 28 Holloway Street Carterton 5713 | Website: www.cdc.govt.nz

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

LGOIMA ID: 2023-94

From: Rate Payers Report <ratepayers.report@taxpayers.org.nz>

Sent: Monday, 18 December 2023 3:24 pm

To: LGOIMA Requests <lgoima@cdc.govt.nz>

Subject: 20231218 CDC 2024 Ratepayers Report LGOIMA 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.

Hello Carterton District 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**:

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.

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

LGOIMA ID: 2023-94

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
 - **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).
- 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

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 CDC 2024 Ratepayers Report LGOIMA Request.

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

LGOIMA ID: 2023-94

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](#).

RELEASED UNDER LGOIMA

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