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LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

Request from:	Lee Scanlon – The Westport News
Information requested:	Annual survey of councils
Response by:	Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

16 November 2023

Lee Scanlon
Reporter
Westport News

Via Email: lee@westportnews.co.nz

Dear Lee

Official information request for information relating to your Annual Survey of Coast Councils

I refer to your official information request dated 25 October 2023 for information relating to your Annual Survey of Coast Councils.

You have asked for the following information:

1. The remuneration of your council's mayor/chair for 2022/23

This can be found on page 110 in the Annual Report 2022-23 on the Westland District Council Website here: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/media/bgfglrof/annual-report-2022-2023-final-audit-opinion-v-2.pdf>

2. All ratepayer-funded expenses which are not part of the remuneration package for your mayor/chair for 2022/23 including: travel, vehicle, fuel, accommodation, food/beverages, conference fees, phone, membership fees (e.g. Koru Club). Please list individual items/events separately so it's clear where costs have been incurred.

Travel	
Mayoral induction training Wellington	\$1,323.31
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Queenstown	\$962.53
Vehicle	
Vehicle costs	\$128.50
Fuel	Nil
Accommodation	
Mayoral induction training Wellington	\$1,299.65
Rural and Provincial meeting Wellington	\$347.61
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Queenstown	\$576.52
Councillor induction tour Franz Josef	\$177.72
Councillor induction tour Fox Glacier	\$122.06
Meals	
Mayoral induction training Wellington	\$13.04
Conference fees	
Mayoral induction training Wellington	\$1,067.50
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Nelson	\$120.10
Elected member inductions Hokitika	\$595.00
LGNZ conference Wellington	\$1,565.22

Phone	Nil
Membership fees (e.g. Koru Club)	Nil
Total	\$8,298.76

3. The remuneration package for your council's chief executive for 2022/23

This can be found on page 110 in the Annual Report 2022-23 on the Westland District Council Website here: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/media/bgfglrof/annual-report-2022-2023-final-audit-opinion-v-2.pdf>

4. The current remuneration package for your council's chief executive if it has changed since June 30, 2023.

\$271,583.00

5. All ratepayer funded expenses which are not part of the remuneration package for your council's chief executive for 2022/23 including: travel, vehicle, fuel, accommodation, food/beverages, conference fees, phone, membership fees (e.g. Koru Club). Please list individual items/events separately so it's clear where costs have been incurred.

Travel	
Auckland meetings	\$1,167.78
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Nelson	\$381.25
LGNZ conference Wellington	\$594.64
Meetings Wellington	\$69.56
Meetings Christchurch	\$94.35
Meetings Wellington	\$115.39
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Queenstown	\$13.04
Vehicle	Nil
Accommodation	
LGNZ Conference Wellington	\$244.26
Meetings Christchurch	\$166.09
Rural and Provincial meeting Palmerston North	\$735.57
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Nelson	\$264.17
Meetings Wellington	\$236.44
Rural and Provincial meeting Wellington	\$347.61
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Queenstown	\$630.00
Auckland Meetings	\$470.48
Councillor induction tour Franz Josef	\$177.72
Councillor induction tour Fox Glacier	\$122.06
Meals	
Meetings Christchurch	\$62.17
LGNZ conference Wellington	\$365.04
Rural and Provincial meeting Palmerston North	\$60.00
Franz Josef Meetings	\$73.12
NTU Meetings	\$136.95

Zone 5 & 6 meeting Nelson	\$183.18
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Queenstown	\$54.78
Auckland Meetings	\$73.04
Conference fees	
LGNZ conference Wellington	\$1,508.69
Zone 5 & 6 meeting Nelson	\$120.10
Phone	Nil
Membership fees (e.g. Koru Club)	
SOLGM	\$275.00
Total	\$8,742.48

6. Does your mayor/chair and/or chief executive have a council credit card? If so, what rules apply to its use?

No.

7. What was the number of FTE staff employed by your council at June 30, 2023?

This can be found on page 110 in the Annual Report 2022-23 on the Westland District Council Website here: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/media/bgfglrof/annual-report-2022-2023-final-audit-opinion-v-2.pdf>

8. What were your council's total staff costs for the year ended June 30, 2023?

This can be found on page 110 in the Annual Report 2022-23 on the Westland District Council Website here: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/media/bgfglrof/annual-report-2022-2023-final-audit-opinion-v-2.pdf>

9. What percentage did staff costs comprise of your council's operating spending?

15.30%

10. What was the average cost per FTE employee?

\$87,830.00

11. How many staff were employed in each salary band?

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12. Please supply your council's legal expenses for 2022/23 and what the expenses related to?

Legal	
Lease agreements	\$17,519.25
Transfer of Pensioner housing	\$740.22
Employment advice	\$12,955.40
Building consent advice	\$6,270.85
Dog Control infringements	\$521.73

RMA advice	\$45,141.00
Land purchase/transfer	\$4,387.39
Response camping infringements	\$1,565.22
3 Waters transition	\$52,599.56 – Externally funded
Easements	\$3,964.35
Marine and coastal area advice	\$1,462.68
Library lease review	\$7,491.62
Funding document review	\$4,236.33
Debt collection	\$28,276.83
Audit information	\$358.70
ANZ ISDA	\$3,070.00
Total	\$190,561.13

13. How much did the legal expenses comprise of your council’s operating expenses (and what was the operating cost?)?

0.53% - Operating cost \$36,166,000.00

14. What was the average cost per rateable property of your council’s legal bills?

\$28.55

15. How much did your council pay for professional public/relations communications advice in 2022/23?

Nil.

16. To whom was this advice provided – councillors, staff or both – and in what form (e.g. written report, workshop)?

N/A

17. How much has your council paid for professional public relations/communications advice since June 30, 2023?

Nil.

18. To whom was this advice provided, and in what form (e.g. written report, workshop)?

None.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.

The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz, 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Bastion | Chief Executive

SB/MB