



Ref: **s.7(2)(a) -**

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12 April 2021

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New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
PO Box 10518
Wellington 6143

Dear Sir / Madam

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST 2021 RATEPAYERS' REPORT – RATES, THIRD PARTY COSTS, AUDIT RISK, REMUNERATION

I refer to your official information request dated 8 March 2021 for 2019/2020 financial year information on audit and risk oversight, payments to third parties, remuneration, and rates costs.

Section 74(1) Parts 1 to 6 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) apply to a council-controlled organisation as if that organisation were a local authority. Port companies (Port Nelson Limited) are excluded under s.6(4)(c) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Also for the purposes of Parts 1 to 6 of that Act, "local authority" means the local authorities and public bodies named or specified in Schedule 1 to that Act. "Airport Authorities (other than airport companies (as defined in section 2 of the Airport Authorities Act 1966)) are named in Schedule 1. Nelson Airport Limited is an airport company as defined in section 2 of the Airport Authorities Act 1966, as it has been authorised by an Order in Council under section 3(3) of that Act to exercise the powers conferred on local authorities to operate airports, and so the provisions relating to availability of official information under LGOIMA do not apply to that organisation.

Based on the above, this request does not include data for Port Nelson Limited or Nelson Airport Limited.

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:
 - **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

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- 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).

Residential					
	No Of Properties/Charges (Z)	Rate	Factor	Total (X)	
General Rate	18979	0.0051346	5,295,150,950	27,188,482	
General Rate	733	0.0056481	301,593,422	1,703,430	
<i>General Rates Sub Total</i>	<i>19712</i>			28,891,912	
Uniform Annual General Charge	21017		435	9,147,019	9,147,019
Waste Water	20452		478	9,774,624	9,774,624
Stormwater	19487		330	6,439,869	6,439,869
Water Charge	19178		200	3,843,271	3,843,271
Clean Heat Warm Homes/Solar Saver			Varies	463,445	463,445
				58,560,140	
Water Usage (Y)	19178		2.137		
Rating Unit Numbers					
	Total Rating Units	Residential Rating Units			
2019/20	21,858	19,712			
The average residential rating charges above includes the following but the make-up of individual residential rates assessments may vary based on property location and services provided to the property.					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General rate based on land value • Uniform Annual charge • Storm water and Flood Protection charge • Waste Water charge • Water Supply charge • Water Volumetric Usage charge 					

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:
 - **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).

***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 2019/2020 Financial Year.**

Non Residential (Commercial, Small Holding & Rural)					
	No Of Properties/Charges (Z)	Rate	Factor	Total (X)	
General Rate	1088	0.0142382	804,523,252	11,454,963	
General Rate	42	0.0119636	16,503,395	197,440	
General Rate	20	0.0096890	7,580,000	73,443	
General Rate	7	0.0074092	5,656,000	41,906	
General Rate	35	0.0181765	15,491,000	281,572	
General Rate	265	0.0187208	220,860,000	4,134,676	
General Rate	8	0.0153268	2,620,000	40,156	
General Rate	1	0.0119277	265,000	3,161	
General Rate	1	0.0085337	355,000	3,029	
General Rate	555	0.0046211	301,053,125	1,391,197	
General Rate	124	0.0033375	114,830,250	383,246	
<i>General Rates Sub Total</i>	<i>2146</i>				18,004,789
Uniform Annual General Charge	3003		435	1,306,966	1,306,966
Waste Water	143		478	68,344	68,344
Waste Water	2041		119	243,859	243,859
Stormwater	1748		330	577,662	577,662
Water Charge	1819		200	364,528	364,528
					20,566,147
Water Usage (Y)	1819		2.137		
Rating Unit Numbers					
	Total Rating Units	Non Residential Rating Units			
2019/20	21,858	2,146			
The average non-residential rating charges above includes the following but the make-up of individual non-residential rates assessments may vary based on property location and services provided to the property.					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General rate based on land value • Uniform Annual charge • Storm water and Flood Protection charge • Waste Water charge • Water Supply charge • Water Volumetric Usage charge 				

3. Personnel

- a. *The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.*
Zero

- b. *If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.*
296.4 FTE

- c. *The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.*
69

- d. *The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.*
8

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

- a. *How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?*
Committee is called Audit, Risk and Finance Subcommittee. There are six members.
- b. *Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?*
Yes, two
- c. *Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?*
Yes
- d. *Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?*
No
- e. *Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?*
Yes
- f. *Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?*
Yes

5. Payments to third parties

- a. *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce.*

Nelson City Council	\$1,029.25
Nelmac Ltd	\$8,176.50
Nelson Tasman Regional Development Agency	\$244,450.90
The Bishop Suter Trust	\$322.00
Tasman Bays Heritage Trust	\$534.75

NRDA: Please note the payments for the Regional Business Partner Programme are contracts for service for the New Zealand Trade & Enterprise and Callahan Innovation programmes delivered by the Nelson Regional Development Agency. The amounts paid to the Chambers to deliver this service are commercially

- b. *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).*

Nelson City Council (Subscriptions & Conferences)	\$60,530.01
Nelmac Ltd	\$0.00
Nelson Tasman Regional Development Agency	\$0.00
The Bishop Suter Trust	\$0.00
Tasman Bays Heritage Trust	\$0.00

- c. *The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).*

Nelson City Council	\$45,022.23
Nelmac Ltd	\$0.00
Nelson Tasman Regional Development Agency	\$0.00
The Bishop Suter Trust	\$0.00
Tasman Bays Heritage Trust	\$0.00

Please note all costs quoted above include GST.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Harper', with a stylized, cursive script.

Victoria Harper
Manager Accounting Services