



Ref: [REDACTED]

Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street  
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2 May 2022

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[nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz)

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RATES ADVISORY [REDACTED] Nelson, 7071**

We write in reference to your email dated 29 April 2022:

I have received the attached 4/4 rates installment invoice.

NZ legislature (Human Rights Act 1993, NZ Bill of Rights 1990 Act etc.), and numerous MP petitions and stands, call out against discrimination in New Zealand.

As a ratepayer, amongst others, intentionally and often aggressively excluded from all NCC cultural and recreational options due to "mandates", I believe it is my legal right to, as a minimum, be awarded a discount towards these exclusions.

The published NCC expenditure chart states that 18% goes towards "culture", 11% to Recreation and Sport, and 15% to "Other Activities". The first two, for a total of 29% are certainly services I was discriminatorily excluded from.

Please enlighten me as to what portion of "other" may be included as well.

Exclusion from society has had a detrimental effect on health and well-being, with NCC actions contributing significantly to these. The timeline of exclusion is therefore a bit of a blur in my memory. I think an easy way to determine this is to look at the dates the library was closed off for the excluded population.

Please factor in the time period X the percentage of rates, and submit an updated invoice to reflect the "discount".

Nelson City Council must comply with legislation set out by central government in respect to entry to public buildings and community facilities. In setting the guidelines on how our buildings and facilities could be used and accessed during the recent period of time in which vaccination passes were required, Nelson City Council used the Local Government Covid Protection Framework guidance. This required us to assess several factors, including the safety of staff, public health risk and maintaining public access to services.

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The rates we charge have been set to make public facilities available for use generally. Local Government rates are not user charges, but more in the form of a tax. Rates recognise the value of providing services for the whole community and apply regardless of actual use of particular services.

While we appreciate that it will have been frustrating not to have access to some Council services during the period vaccination passes were required due to your COVID-19 vaccination status, the costs of keeping these services remain and the rates being collected are needed to cover these costs.

There is no rebate or reduction in rates as explained above. Council's Rating Resolution states that any rates outstanding after the due date of a rates instalment will attract a 5% late payment penalty charge.

Should your rates be in arrears for future instalments, Council may commence recovery action in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

If you require assistance or wish to make a payment arrangement for the remainder of your rates, please either complete a Direct Debit application form via this link on our website <https://my.nelson.govt.nz/online-services/new/direct-debit-form/step/1> or get in touch with our Customer Services Centre on 03 546 0200 or email [customer.service@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:customer.service@ncc.govt.nz) and we can work out a plan together.

Yours sincerely



**Devorah Nicuarta-Smith**  
Manager Governance and Support Services