

## LGOIMA

*When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names of individual requestors may be withheld to protect their privacy.*

*Information requested by the media, from 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:**

**For:** Councillor Remuneration and Meetings

---

**Response**

**by:** Mary Birch

---

---

**From:** Mary Birch  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 September 2019 8:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Information Request - Response

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request regarding Councillor remuneration and meetings.

You requested:

*"I would like to see the payment scheme for the councillors"*

Elected Member remuneration is set by the Remuneration Authority. The Remuneration Authority is the independent body set up by Parliament to handle the remuneration of elected members. Under schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Remuneration Authority sets the remuneration for all elected members of local authorities. It also sets allowances and expenses. In undertaking its duties, the Authority has an obligation to maintain fair relativity with other levels of remuneration elsewhere, to be fair to both elected members and ratepayers, and to attract and retain competent persons. Further details about the Remuneration authority can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.remauthority.govt.nz/local-government/>

The current remuneration for Councillors, as set by the Remuneration Authority is as follows:

effective from 1 July 2019 up to and including the day that the official result of the 2019 election of members for the council is declared.

**Nelson City Council**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Annual Remuneration (\$)</b>
Mayor	140,079
Deputy Mayor	62,662
Committee Chairperson (5)	50,548
Deputy Committee Chairperson (3)	43,863
Councillor	41,774

**Governance Costs from 1 July 2019 (\$)**

Annualised Costs (Deputy Mayor + Councillors)	572,313
<i>Annualised RA Provision</i>	<i>584,836</i>

There will be a change to Elected Member remuneration after the Local Government Election:

effective from the day after the date on which the official result of the 2019 election of members for the council is declared

#### Nelson City Council

Office	Annual Remuneration (\$)
Mayor	144,500
Councillor Minimum Allowable Remuneration	39,686
<b>Pool to be allocated</b>	<b>603,300</b>

Council will be allocated a pool and is required to resolve the remuneration for elected members from this pool, using the entire pool of \$603,300. This will include the base rate for Councillors as well as any additional pay for positions of responsibility. The Remuneration Authority will then review the proposed remuneration and the new determination will continue through to June 2020. Any changes made to the base rate for Councillors will be back dated to the date after the official results have been declared. Accepted proposals for positions of responsibility will be back dated to the day after Council formally votes on these positions.

*“As far as I can see from the article, most meetings this year have been cancelled due to “insufficient business” and most workshops have been cancelled due to “no topic to discuss”. Considering the climate crisis emergency and the very near collapse, it is frankly inexplicable!”*

This year there have been 70 Council, Committee and Subcommittee meetings have been held. During the same period, 15 have been cancelled.

This year there have been 47 workshops held. During the same period 19 have been cancelled.

Meetings and workshops are scheduled in advance on a regular basis. On occasion, the sessions that have been put aside for a particular committee or workshop are not required at that particular point in time.

*“On what grounds are these 13 people payed?”*

When setting the level of remuneration for Nelson City Council, a Unitary Authority, the Remuneration Authority will take into account:

- Population
- Total operating expenditure
- Total assets
- Socioeconomic deprivation index
- Geographic size
- Public transport boardings

As seen above, additional remuneration is given to councillors that undertake additional responsibilities, such as the Deputy Mayor, Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Committees and Subcommittees.

*“Why do they get a salary instead of an attendance fee?”*

As explained above, the remuneration is not based on the number of meetings that an elected member attends.

*“Why are they not assigned a portfolio? We can not judge what they achieve and they bear no responsibility..”*

Some councils do run a portfolio system, such as Wellington City Council. However, in 2016, Nelson City Council chose to continue to work within a committee framework for the current triennium.

Ngā mihi,

Mary

**Mary Birch**

Manager Governance and Support Services  
Kāwanatanga Kaiwhakahaere me ngā Ratonga Tautoko

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

P 03 546 0391 M 022 014 3614

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

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:44 PM  
**To:** Council Enquiries (Enquiry)  
**Subject:** Nelson weekly - council meetings cancelled

**Categories:** 4 Hours

Hi,

I would like to understand the payment scheme for the councillors.

As far as I can see from the article, most meetings this year have been cancelled due to “insufficient business” and most workshops have been cancelled due to “no topic to discuss”. Considering the climate crisis emergency and the very near collapse, it is frankly inexplicable!

On what grounds are these 13 people payed?

Why do they get a salary instead of an attendance fee?

Why are they not assigned a portfolio? We can not judge what they achieve and they bear no responsibility..

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]