



Ref: [REDACTED]

Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street
PO Box 645, Nelson 7040, New Zealand

17 January 2024

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E LGOIMA@ncc.govt.nz
nelson.govt.nz

[REDACTED]
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
117 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6011

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EXPENDITURE

I refer to your official information request dated 7 December 2023 for council Christmas Expenditure.

The information you requested is enclosed. Please note that all the figures are GST Exclusive.

End-of-Year Bonuses:

- Total amount paid in end-of-year bonuses to the CEO this Christmas.
Nil.
- Total amount paid in bonuses to staff employed by your organization this Christmas.
Nil.
- Please also provide the same for Christmas 2022.
Nil.

Presents for Staff:

- Total expenditure on presents for staff including but not limited to 'secret Santa' etc.
\$1,058.43, Based on the data in the system as of December 2023 and please note that some invoices may still due to be received and processed.
- Please include this cost for last year also.
\$139.76 of gifts to staff were narrated that they were related to Christmas. It is noted however, that if an invoice does not include a narration with "Christmas" or "Xmas" then this may not be picked up.

Christmas Parade:

- Total expenditure breakdown on any Christmas parade hosted or funded by the Council this year.
This should also include road closure impact assessments where possible.
\$32,000 was gifted to the Nelson Santa Parade Trust. Road closures cost \$14,523. An additional \$4,000 has been set aside for the Santa parade post review of final report.
- Please include a cost breakdown for any Christmas parade last year.
\$16,000 was gifted to the Nelson Santa Parade Trust. Road closures cost \$15,231.

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Christmas Trees and lights:

- Number of Christmas trees purchased and erected, and the cost of these purchases for this year.
The budgeted cost for Christmas decorations is \$74,988, with \$3,477 of invoices received to date. There were two trees decorated by a third party, one at the Nelson Cathedral and one at Tahunanui Beach, however zero were purchased.
- Please also include the cost for any Christmas lights for tree and any lights for buildings for this year.
The above budget is allocated to all decorations including but not limited to lights.
- Please also include the cost of both for last year, too.
The budgeted cost for Christmas decorations including Christmas Trees and Lights were \$73,109, with \$46,676 actually being spent mainly on installation and removal of Christmas trees and decorations. There were no trees purchased.
- Please highlight if the council had any left over from last year.
Yes, please see above question for budget vs. actual costs.

Hiring Santa:

- Breakdown of costs associated with hiring a Santa, if applicable.
Not applicable, as the Nelson Santa Parade Trust deals with this.
- Please also provide this information for last year, too.
Not applicable, as the Nelson Santa Parade Trust deals with this.

Christmas Market:

- Breakdown of costs associated with running/hosting/sponsoring a Christmas market, if applicable.
Not applicable.
- Please provide this information for last year, too.
Not applicable.

Christmas Party Supplies:

- Please breakdown the amount spent on the following for the years 2022 and 2023:
 - Wrapping paper
 - Santa hats
 - Alcohol for parties
 - Party hats
 - Christmas crackers
 - Christmas cards
 - Christmas decorations

We do not breakdown any of the costs above, therefore we will not be able to quantify the above. These costs will be sitting within Christmas Parties or presents for staff.

Christmas Parties:

- Total expenditure breakdown on Council Christmas parties. Please also include in the breakdown any travel arrangement costs.

Total entertainment for Christmas was \$12,047.60 (Based on the data in the system as of December 2023 and that all costs are coded and labelled appropriately).

- Please include this for last year, also.

Total entertainment for Christmas was \$9,336.02, Based on the fact that all costs have been coded and labelled appropriately in the system).

Office Closure:

- Duration of office closure during the Christmas period for the council generally.
The office was closed for the week beginning 25th December 2023 and reopened on 3rd January 2024.
- Please specify how many managers and senior executive staff are taking more hours/days out of office than is blanket across the council for the Christmas period.
Most managers are taking further hours off than the blanket close-down period and we haven't quantified this.
- Does the Christmas office closure also affect contactors paid by the council? If not, how much are they being paid over the Christmas break in an hourly rate?
Any contractors who would normally work during the close-down period are not being paid by the Council over this time.

Fines:

- Does the council have any plans to increase fines for parking offences or any other offences during the Christmas period?
There are no plans to increase fines for park offences or any other offences during the Christmas period.
- If so, which fines are increasing, why and what revenue is expected to be raised?
Not Applicable.

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 Prabath Jayawardana at Prabath.Jayawardana@ncc.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Prabath Jayawardana
Manager Finance