

23 March 2022



**Request for Official Information responded to under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) – reference: OIR 2122-212**

I refer to your information request we received on 7 March 2022 for the following:

***Between March and April 2020, the Council initiated a covid-19 support package for its ratepayers.***

- 1. Please send me the qualifying criteria used for providing the covid-19 support package for you ratepayers between March and April 2020***

On 9 April 2020, Council announced its Community Support Package for those impacted financially due to COVID-19. This was formally approved by Council on 30 April 2020.

Assistance was provided in the form of:

- Rates deferral through an agreed payment plan for up to 6 months and/or
- Remission of penalties incurred between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020.

The qualifying criteria was:

- Completed application form
- Declaration that the customer had been financially affected by COVID-19
- Agreement to a payment arrangement to repay deferred rates after the deferral period ended
- Applications closed for the support package on 31 August 2020.

- 2. For ratepayers facing financial hardship and experiencing difficulty with paying their rates, how many of them did the Council provide rates assistance for:***

- ***between March and April 2020***

1,087 property and water rates penalties were remitted, and 6 property and water rates payments were deferred.

- ***and from March 2020 till date***

1,918 property and rates penalties were remitted (information as of 31 December 2021) and 136 property and water rates payments were deferred on agreed payment arrangements when applications for the support package closed on 31 August 2020.

As of 31 December 2021, 23 property and water rates deferred payments remain on payment arrangements.

**3. What is the monetary value of the rate assistance provided to ratepayers;**

- **between March and April 2020**

\$12,822 rates penalties were remitted, and \$1,868 property and water rates were deferred;

- **and from March 2020 till date**

\$104,717 rates penalties were remitted (information as of 31 December 2021) and \$284,172 of property and water rates were deferred on agreed payment plans when applications for the support package closed on 31 August 2020;

As of 31 December 2021, \$20,396 of deferred property and water rates payments remain on payment arrangements.

Link to Kapiti Coast District Council's 2019/20 Annual report can be found here:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/38534/annual-report-2019-20.pdf> - Please refer to pages 114 and 117 in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

**4. What's the policy or guideline used in determining if penalties should be applied or waived?**

Property and water rates penalties are set each year by Council resolution in accordance with Sections 57 and 58 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Applications for remission of penalties are considered under the Council's Rates Remission policy. Please refer to Part 6 of Council's rates remission policy in the 2021-41 Long Term Plan available in the link below:

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/media/40126/long-term-plan-2021-41-part-two.pdf#page=139>

**5. Please send me the minutes of the council's meetings where qualifying criteria used for providing the covid-19 support package for ratepayers between March and April 2020 was determined.**

A link to the minutes is available here: [Minutes of Council Meeting - 30 00 2020 \(infocouncil.biz\)](#). A copy of the full report is available here [Agenda of Council Meeting - 30 00 2020 \(infocouncil.biz\)](#)

Yours sincerely



**Mark de Haast**

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Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū