

OIR: 2324/866

30 April 2024



Tēnā koe ,

**Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)**

Thank you for your email of **28 March 2024** requesting the following information:

**This is a request for official information relating to funds paid to Taituarā – formally known as the NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).**

***Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:***

- 1. *A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā***

Please see details attached at Appendix 1

- 2. *For each payment:***
  - a. *the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for\* and***

Please see details at Appendix 2

- b. *whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.***

The Council considers that the membership and any corresponding training courses attended by employees as part of their professional development and therefore a beneficial investment by the Council. Consequently, the Council would not seek to recover these costs from employees.

***Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.***

**3. *Given the nature of Taituarā as a membership organisation – in effect the employment union for local government managers – if membership dues are not recovered or deducted, please provide:***

Taituarā is not a union and play no role in the negotiation of employment contracts or employment relations for any individual or group within the sector. Membership is voluntary rather than a requirement as is the case for example with lawyers, accountants etc.

**a. *the reasoning (if any) for not deducting the amounts (i.e. Why should ratepayers pay for a private organisation/benefit?) and***

This has been answered in question 2(b) above.

**b. *whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?***

The Council has a number of employees who are members to professional bodies. This includes, but is not exhausted to, Lawyers, Accountants and other internationally accredited organisations. The Council considers the necessary expertise of these professions integral to the operation, compliance and delivery of services to meet the community obligations the Council has been mandated to perform. Consequently, the Council would not seek recovery of these professional memberships.

**4. *If the Council considers that the membership for Council officers is as part of their role at the Council (and therefore not for private benefit) please provide this information and explain how Taituarā is not therefore treated as a CCO under s 6(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the purposes of the Council group's statutory reporting.***

Taituarā does not meet the legal definition of a CCO as specified under section 6(1) of the [Local Government Act 2002](#). Council considers that a Council officer's Taituarā membership is as part of their role at the Council

It is the individual not the council that is a member of Taituarā. No local authority or group of local authorities own or control 50 percent or more of the voting rights at any meeting of Taituarā, nor does any local authority or group of local authorities have the right to appoint 50 percent or more of the members of our governing body.

Ngā mihi,



**Mark de Haast**

Group Manager Corporate Services  
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū

Date	Amount
3/02/2023	1,265.00
20/02/2023	4,640.25
3/03/2023	2,417.50
5/04/2023	2,829.00
20/04/2023	1,437.50
5/05/2023	2,225.25
19/05/2023	2,426.50
1/06/2023	1,449.00
7/07/2023	2,558.75
19/07/2023	575
18/08/2023	4,554.00
1/09/2023	17,748.71
20/09/2023	1,638.75
6/10/2023	4,542.50
20/10/2023	138
3/11/2023	373.75
20/11/2023	373.75
8/12/2023	6,440.00
20/12/2023	373.75

TOTAL (GST Incl)	58,006.96	-
GST	7,566.13	
<b>TOTAL (GST Excl)</b>	<b>50,440.83</b>	-

Date	Amount	Reason	Invoice No:
30/01/2023	-1,265.00	Policy Fundamentals	16071
<b>3/02/2023</b>	<b>1,265.00</b>		
20/01/2023	747.5	Credit note	1120
8/02/2023	-1,437.50	Marsh Risk Management Forum	16162
8/02/2023	-718.75	Marsh Risk Management Forum	16170
10/02/2023	-1,345.50	LTP Roadshow	16187
9/02/2023	-1,265.00	Introduction to Policy Fundamentals	16177
10/02/2023	-621	LTP Roadshow	16188
<b>20/02/2023</b>	<b>4,640.25</b>		
17/02/2023	-517.5	Collaborative Leadership workshop	16244
2/02/2023	-1,900.00	Collaborative Leadership workshop	16116
<b>3/03/2023</b>	<b>2,417.50</b>		
27/03/2023	-621	Climate Change Forum	16576
29/03/2023	-2,208.00	Civic Financial Services Strategic Forum	16602
<b>5/04/2023</b>	<b>2,829.00</b>		
5/04/2023	-1,437.50	Climate Change Forum	16661
<b>20/04/2023</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>		
14/04/2023	-1,265.00	Introduction to Policy Fundamentals	16711
2/05/2023	-960.25	Community Wellbeing Forum	16796
<b>5/05/2023</b>	<b>2,225.25</b>		
4/05/2023	-287.5	Climate change and decision-making	16855
4/05/2023	-287.5	Embedding climate change in the 2024 LTP	16856
4/05/2023	-287.5	LGOIMA and the Privacy Act	16852
17/05/2023	-1,564.00	Taituarā Gala Dinner	17046
<b>19/05/2023</b>	<b>2,426.50</b>		
18/05/2023	-1,449.00	Representation Review Forum	17059
<b>1/06/2023</b>	<b>1,449.00</b>		
16/06/2023	-287.5	A council's role in development projects - Simpson Grierson	17219
26/06/2023	-287.5	What happened to the water legislation - Simpson Grierson	17281
30/06/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011688
30/06/2023	-276	How Government Works E-Learning Programme	17318
29/06/2023	718.75	Credit note	1203
29/06/2023	718.75	Credit note	1202
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011738
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011741
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011737
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011739
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011735
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011740
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011734
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011733
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011736
3/07/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00011732
3/07/2023	-287.5	What happened to the RMA - Simpson Grierson	17325
3/07/2023	-287.5	What happened to the RMA - Simpson Grierson	17326
3/07/2023	287.5	Credit note	1205
29/06/2023	621	Credit note	1204
<b>7/07/2023</b>	<b>2,558.75</b>		

Date	Amount	Reason	Invoice No:
11/07/2023	-287.5	Bylaws refresher - Simpson Grierson	17408
11/07/2023	-287.5	Local alcohol policies and the implications from Auckland Supreme Court ruling	17409
<b>19/07/2023</b>	<b>575</b>		
1/08/2023	-333.5	Your Long-term Plan (LTP) Starter Kit 2023	17570
2/08/2023	-276	Your Long-term Plan (LTP) Starter Kit 2023	17585
2/08/2023	-747.5	Legislative Changes and the 2024 LTP	17586
3/08/2023	-333.5	Your Long-term Plan (LTP) Starter Kit 2023	17599
3/08/2023	-2,530.00	Governance Professionals Forum	17607
16/08/2023	-333.5	CD Writing Starter Kit	17725
14/08/2023	-333.5	Your Long-term Plan (LTP) Starter Kit 2023	17691
<b>18/08/2023</b>	<b>4,554.00</b>		
14/08/2023	-17,041.46	SectorGood Work Programme - Annual Subscription	00012085
21/08/2023	-373.75	Tendering and Procurement	17759
<b>1/09/2023</b>	<b>17,748.71</b>		
31/08/2023	-1,265.00	Funding and Rating Forum	17823
16/08/2023	-373.75	Legislative Changes and the 2024 LTP	17724
18/09/2023	-3,795.00	Funding and Rating Forum	17886
<b>20/09/2023</b>	<b>1,638.75</b>		
21/09/2023	-373.75	BERL 2023 - The Post Adjustors Update	17906
21/09/2023	-373.75	Crowded places - how councils can respond to hate	17912
<b>6/10/2023</b>	<b>4,542.50</b>		
18/10/2023	-138	How Government Works E-Learning Programme	18051
<b>20/10/2023</b>	<b>138</b>		
1/11/2023	-373.75	The Business Payment Practice Regulations	18138
<b>3/11/2023</b>	<b>373.75</b>		
6/11/2023	-373.75	Crowded places - how councils can respond to hate	18172
<b>20/11/2023</b>	<b>373.75</b>		
9/11/2023	-373.75	Council workshops and LGOIMA	18191
13/11/2023	-316.25	Taituarā full membership	00012242
23/11/2023	-373.75	Climate Change Financial Disclosures	18253
29/11/2023	-5,002.50	Writing for Local Government Decisions	18268
5/12/2023	-373.75	The Next Three Years	18320
<b>8/12/2023</b>	<b>6,440.00</b>		
7/12/2023	-373.75	Navigating the Maze - LTPs and the water reforms	18347
<b>20/12/2023</b>	<b>373.75</b>		
	58,006.96		
	7,566.13		
	<b>50,440.83</b>		