



07 November 2013

Official Information Request No. 9000125937  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Mr James Smith

Via email: [fyi-request-1225-2925b470@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-1225-2925b470@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Mr Smith

**Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

**Re: Communications Staff in Mayors office**

I refer to your email request dated 18 October 2013, in which you seek information on “whether any ratepayer funds have been spent on public relations officers/spin doctors during the last week in relation to the scandal surround[ing] Mayor Len Brown” and “if any have been used the[n] please let me know the approximate number of hours and approximate cost to Auckland from this use of publicly funded staff on private business”.

The Office of the Mayor was established under the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009. The Act made provision for the Mayor to establish and maintain an appropriately staffed office of the mayor with an operating budget of not more than 0.2 percent of the council’s total budgeted operating expenditure for that year. The current Mayoral Office includes staff engaged in providing services covering policy development, finance, correspondence, mayoral diary and events management, speech writing, communications and public affairs.

The council is not aware of any private use of the resources in the Mayor’s Office as outlined in your email. Having said that, the council, including the Mayor’s Office, has received a number of media and LGOIMA requests (such as your own LGOIMA request) that require attention as part of the business of council. We do not currently have a record of the hours or cost to answer the media and LGOIMA enquiries.

If you have any further queries please contact me on (09) 301 3815, quoting Official Information Request No. 9000125937.

Nāku noa, nā

Blair Doherty  
Information Advisor  
**Public Information Unit**  
**Auckland Council**

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