

10 July 2014

IRO-4118

Ian Apperley
(Via 'fyi-request-1702-513e795a@requests.fyi.org.nz')

Dear Mr Apperley

Costs for Mayoral-led Delegation to China and Japan May 2014

Further to my email on 24 June 2014 responding to part of your original request, I appreciate your patience while the remainder of the information has been compiled as the actual costs for the Mayor's and Council officers (who travelled with the delegation) have been confirmed at the end of the 2014 financial year.

As you are aware, the estimated cost for the Mayor and Councillor Coughlan's travel was reported at the Council's Governance Finance and Planning meeting on 25 March 2014- you have been provided with a copy of this report. The estimated cost for their travel is outlined in the report to the committee and was as follows:

Mayor – *estimated* \$11, 802 (actual cost \$8, 557.05)
Cr Coughlan – *estimated* \$9, 387 (was unable to attend and await refund details)

Of note, the Mayor's actual travel was less than the estimated cost in the report and Councillor Coughlan was unable to attend the delegation due to a family bereavement. The Council is waiting on details on a refund of her booked travel. Four Council officers were also in attendance with the delegation to assist and translate for the Mayor as needed. This was an additional cost of \$27, 000.

The overall total cost to date for the Mayor and four Council officers to attend the Mayoral-led delegation was \$35, 557.05 (this excludes Cr Coughlan's air fares until such time as the Council has a confirmed refund amount).

The aim of the Mayoral-led delegation was, as in previous delegations led by Mayor Wade-Brown and previous Mayors, to promote and strengthen Wellington's economy by opening doors for Wellington businesses and education providers. This was to create new partnerships in China and Japan and facilitate business-to-business opportunities for delegation members with trade partners in Chinese and Japanese markets. This in turn strengthens existing relationships and helps form strong connections with partners and customers in China and Japan, as well as establishing new relationships that will result in business growth in Wellington.

Some of the highlights achieved by the delegation, particularly to the Wellington City Council:

- Mayor signs Memorandum of Collaboration with tech giant NEC to assist Wellington to operate infrastructure and transport networks to improve efficiencies and enhance customer service.
- Mayor signs Memorandum of Cooperation with JJJ Directors, a consulting service who represents students who wish to study abroad.



- The signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Chinese Ministry of Culture, which will lead to the establishment of a Chinese Culture Centre in Wellington to enhance opportunities for Wellington events to tour China, and provide premium cultural performers in Wellington events and also Wellington's Chinese New Year celebrations.
- 'East meets West' - a cultural exchange through art between China and New Zealand, that has already been manifested with an exhibition held at the St James complex.

There were 30 business companies and education providers in the Mayoral-led delegation. In addition, the delegation members pursued business and education opportunities alongside the Council, during their own time and according to their own needs. The Council's International Relations team remains in contact with delegation members to monitor and encourage ongoing developments. The reporting of ongoing success and developments is the responsibility of delegation members themselves according to their own commercial needs and considerations.

The Council considers the cost of the delegation is justified both in terms of stronger political relationships and when considered in the context of the gains to the Wellington business community and education providers, many of whom would be unable to gain access to these markets without the political leadership that the Mayor represents.

Further information can be found on the Council website link which may be useful to you.

<http://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/news/2014/04/mayor-leads-delegation-to-china-and-japan>

Yours sincerely



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