



9 August 2022

FYI Requests

Email fyi-request-19937-7f817f16@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF THE THREE WATERS BETTER OFF FUNDING

I refer to your official information request dated 17 July 2022 for:

- A list of all community engagements, meetings, and communications, if any, planned or completed by Council to inform the community of the \$16 million of three water funds from central government, since this money was confirmed.
- All written communications from Council regarding the \$16m three waters government funding including (but not limited to) planned media/online advertising, public notices, and other information to inform the public of the \$16m.
- All written communication between Council Staff members and between staff members and Councillors regarding the \$16m.
- Any written communication regarding the ability to use the \$16m if the Council opposes the Three waters reforms.
- Any written communications on the mitigations Council has in place to fill in the funding hole if this money needs to be returned to Government?
- The number of times have the 3 Waters funds been discussed by Council in confidence or in workshop without public oversight since July 2021?
- Please provide the agreed reason for these Council meetings excluding the public and media.
- All and any communications, emails and other correspondence discussing the use of the 16.4 million for debt servicing

We have decided to grant your request in part, and set out the information below:

1. A list of all community engagements, meetings, and communications, if any, planned or completed by Council to inform the community of the \$16 million of three water funds from central government, since this money was confirmed.
There have been no community engagements or meetings planned or completed by Council to inform the public of the \$16.4m. On 15 July 2021, Council issued a media release welcoming the \$16.4m in Government support for Ruapehu. [Funding in support of 3 waters reform welcomed - Ruapehu District Council](http://www.ruapehudc.govt.nz) (ruapehudc.govt.nz). Council officers are taking a recommended engagement plan to the August Council meeting for engagement on tranche 1 of the funding.
2. All written communications from Council regarding the \$16m three waters government funding including (but not limited to) planned media/online advertising, public notices, and other information to inform the public of the \$16m.



There has been no public consultation on the \$16.4m

3. Any written communication regarding the ability to use the \$16m if the Council opposes the Three waters reforms.

There has been no written communication from Council regarding the ability to use the \$16M if Council opposes the three waters reforms.

4. Any written communications on the mitigations Council has in place to fill in the funding hole if this money needs to be returned to Government?

There has been no written communications from Council on the mitigations Council has in place to fill in the funding hole if this money needs to be returned to Government.

5. The number of times have the 3 Waters funds been discussed by Council in confidence or in workshop without public oversight since July 2021?

- On 25 May 2022, Members were presented with a Memo detailing Government’s Better Off Funding in the Public Excluded Order of Business. Council’s Chief Executive recommended a workshop might be the best forum to determine which projects are put forward for funding.
- The workshop was held 29 June 2022 to identify projects which might be suitable for the better off funding and provide direction to officers to explore fully before returning to Council for decision making.

6. Please provide the agreed reason for these Council meetings excluding the public and media.

- The memo was presented as part of the Chief Executive’s confidential briefing under s48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, under grounds s7(2)(a), s7(2)(c), s7(2)(f)
- Workshops provide opportunities for members to discuss particular matters without making decisions. Public notice of a workshop is not required and Council workshops are public excluded.

7. All and any communications, emails and other correspondence discussing the use of the 16.4 million for debt servicing

There have been no written communications discussing the use of the 16.4 million for debt servicing and debt servicing is outside of the funding criteria.

Given the amount of resource required to process your request, we have decided to charge for making part of the requested information available, namely:

- All written communication between Council Staff members and between staff members and Councillors regarding the \$16m.

We estimate that the maximum charge will be \$300. Any unused component of this charge will be refunded to you. For details of how this charge has been calculated refer to the table below.

	Quantity	Price	Totals
Labour	6 hours	\$30/half hour, with the first hour free	\$300
Total cost			\$300

Before we proceed further with your request, please confirm your agreement to the charge. We will then invoice you. We will send you the information within three weeks of your payment.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S'.

Sarah Matthews

EXECUTIVE MANAGER FINANCE STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE