

13 December 2022

File Ref: OIAP-7-26670

Tony Randle

By email: fyi-request-21171-a157a2a7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Tony

Request for information 2022-221

I refer to your request for information dated Sunday, 20 November, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on Monday 21 November. You have requested the following:

“This information request is on behalf of the Johnsonville Residents Association (JCA) and asks for information on the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

A) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the General Rates information in the 2022/23 Annual Plan?

B) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2022/23 General Rate allocation to ratepayers?

C) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 General Rates?

D) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 General Rates?

E) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the Transport Rates information in the draft 2022/23 Annual Plan?

F) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2022/23 Transport Rate allocation to ratepayers?

G) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 Transport Rates?

H) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 Transport Rates?

I) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of the changes (contributions and withdrawals) from the Transport Reserve over the past three years including the source for the contributions and the target for the withdrawals?

J) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any reports or presentations to GWRC councillors at Annual Plan 2022/23 workshops?

If the requested information is held in electronic form, it is preferred that the information is provided in its complete and original electronic format. It is also preferred that information is not removed from documents even if this information may be assessed as being out of scope for this information request.”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

Thank you for your enquiry regarding your general and transport rates in our 2022/23 Annual Plan. We have prepared the following information to best answer your ten questions:

Please note the format of submission has changed from previous requests due to council changing accounting systems.

A) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the General Rates information in the 2022/23 Annual Plan?

(Please refer to **attachment 1** – Rates model 2022-23)

Greater Wellington Regional Council is organised into four key Activity Groups:

- Environment and Flood Protection,
- Metlink Public Transport
- Regional Strategy and Partnerships
- Water Supply

Environment and Flood Protection, and Regional Strategy and Partnerships are the only two groups to utilise the general rates funding method to fund their activities.

When developing the 2022/23 Annual Plan, Council reviews the budget and programmes of work that was set for the relevant year of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan and updates it where necessary. The Revenue and Finance Policy guides who and how the activities are paid for using a range of funding methods, including general rates based on capital values (note, Wellington city is the only Territorial Authority to have a differential on the general rate).

The workings for this can be seen in the annual plan in the form of the Activity Level Prospective Funding Impact Statement (FIS) – *Please refer to pages 29/30 (Environment) and pages 36/37 (Regional Strategy and partnerships) and page 59 for a Summary of rates and Levies in the 2022/23 Annual Plan. (Attachment 2 - 2022/23 Annual Plan. You can also find it online at <https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2022/07/Greater-Wellington-Annual-Plan-2022-23.pdf>)*

B) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2022/23 General Rate allocation to ratepayers?

(Please refer to **attachment 1** – Rates model 2022-23)

For each Territorial Authority (TA) equalised capital values (EQV) are obtained from Quotable Value and these are then used to pro-rata the total general rates required from each TA. TA's are then responsible for allocating and collecting the total rates from the rate payers within their boundaries.

| Territorial Authority | ECV 2022/23 | General Rate |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Wellington city | \$119,439,703,683 | \$34,594,986 |
| Hutt city | \$44,154,024,498 | \$12,788,945 |
| Upper Hutt city | \$17,817,751,914 | \$5,160,804 |
| Porirua city | \$21,241,698,999 | \$6,152,529 |
| Kāpiti Coast district | \$26,169,483,904 | \$7,579,832 |
| Masterton district | \$11,263,219,050 | \$3,262,323 |
| Carterton district | \$4,976,485,118 | \$1,441,409 |
| South Wairarapa district | \$8,115,723,950 | \$2,350,670 |
| Tararua district | \$21,686,475 | \$6,281 |
| Region wide | \$253,199,777,591 | \$73,337,780 |

C) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 General Rates?

Refer to the relevant Perspective Funding Impact Statements (provided in **attachment 2**) for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 General Rates.

Costs are built up across all Greater Wellington Activity Groups to support their strategic priorities. The Activity Groups costs and overall Greater Wellington costs are accessible in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan supporting documentation (refer **attachment 3**).

D) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 General Rates?

(Please refer to **attachment 1** – Rates model 2022-23)

When developing the Annual Plan, the Council reviews the budget and programme of work that was set for the relevant year of the Long Term Plan and updates it where necessary. Please refer **attachment 1** – rates model.

The detailed workings for this can be seen in the Annual Plan in the form of the Activity Level Prospective Funding Impact Statement (FIS).

E) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the Transport Rates information in the draft 2022/23 Annual Plan?

Metlink Public Transport requires \$90,658,000 to be collected via targeted rates using differentials.

Please refer to **attachment 4** – Metlink budget 2022-23 for more detail, and **attachment 1** – rates model.

Please note that in **attachment 4**, the projected cost information relating to the bus, rail and ferry contracts in the Wellington Region has been withheld in accordance with sections 7(2)(b)(ii) and 7(2)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the grounds that releasing the breakdown of the cost estimates would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the operators when negotiating similar contracts, and Greater Wellington’s ability to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations for the upcoming contracts.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington’s need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington’s reason for withholding parts of the document under the grounds identified above.

F) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2022/23 Transport Rate allocation to ratepayers?:

The allocation of rates to the different Greater Wellington activities is determined by the Council's Revenue and Financing Policy. The detailed workings for this can be seen in the Annual Plan in the form of the Activity Level Prospective Funding Impact Statement (FIS). Please see page 32 of the 2022/23 Annual Plan (Attachment 2). More detail allocation to rate payers can be see below (figure 1) or found in the rates model (**attachment 1**).

| Public Transport Differentials for 2022/23 | |
|--|---|
| 1 | Residential (excluding Wairarapa and Ōtaki) |
| 0.5 | Residential (Wairarapa and Ōtaki) |
| 7 | Wellington CBD |
| 1.4 | Business (excluding Wairarapa) |
| 1 | Business (Wairarapa) |
| 0.25 | Rural |

Figure 1

| TA full name | Category group | Concatenated row | CV | ECV | Differential | ECV multiplied | Public transport rate | Rates sought | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| | | | \$ | \$ | # | # | \$ | Cents/\$ | |
| By TA & Category | | | | | | | | | |
| Wellington city | Wellington city | Wellington CBD | Wellington cityWellington CBD | 13,133,427,700 | 13,669,953,228 | 6.96 | 95,104,610,288 | 27,047,320 | 0.20594 |
| Wellington city | Wellington city | Business | Wellington cityBusiness | 6,659,900,150 | 6,931,969,752 | 1.28 | 8,850,995,718 | 2,517,183 | 0.03780 |
| Wellington city | Wellington city | Residential | Wellington cityResidential | 93,657,459,050 | 97,483,544,580 | 0.94 | 91,976,085,355 | 26,157,582 | 0.02793 |
| Wellington city | Wellington city | Rural | Wellington cityRural | 1,301,084,350 | 1,354,236,123 | 0.24 | 320,452,492 | 91,135 | 0.00700 |
| Hutt city | Hutt city | Business | Hutt cityBusiness | 4,905,894,500 | 7,435,650,449 | 1.40 | 10,435,109,099 | 2,967,698 | 0.06049 |
| Hutt city | Hutt city | Residential | Hutt cityResidential | 23,837,441,000 | 36,129,370,265 | 1.07 | 38,660,432,773 | 10,994,852 | 0.04612 |
| Hutt city | Hutt city | Rural | Hutt cityRural | 388,613,000 | 589,003,785 | 0.27 | 158,242,082 | 45,003 | 0.01158 |
| Upper Hutt city | Upper Hutt city | Business | Upper Hutt cityBusiness | 1,448,246,700 | 2,202,141,922 | 1.43 | 3,155,224,042 | 897,331 | 0.06196 |
| Upper Hutt city | Upper Hutt city | Residential | Upper Hutt cityResidential | 9,098,976,100 | 13,835,513,465 | 1.10 | 15,211,655,060 | 4,326,126 | 0.04755 |
| Upper Hutt city | Upper Hutt city | Rural | Upper Hutt cityRural | 1,170,687,000 | 1,780,096,527 | 0.28 | 491,591,666 | 139,806 | 0.01194 |
| Porirua city | Porirua city | Business | Porirua cityBusiness | 1,400,176,000 | 2,033,842,448 | 1.44 | 2,931,379,940 | 833,671 | 0.05954 |
| Porirua city | Porirua city | Residential | Porirua cityResidential | 12,370,577,500 | 17,969,030,771 | 1.11 | 19,909,112,034 | 5,662,061 | 0.04577 |
| Porirua city | Porirua city | Rural | Porirua cityRural | 852,855,700 | 1,238,825,780 | 0.28 | 344,775,887 | 98,053 | 0.01150 |
| Kāpiti Coast district | Kāpiti Coast district | Business | Kāpiti Coast districtBusiness | 1,775,736,500 | 2,348,973,232 | 1.28 | 3,016,072,457 | 857,757 | 0.04830 |
| Kāpiti Coast district | Kāpiti Coast district excl Ōtaki | Residential | Kāpiti Coast district excl Ōtaki Reside | 13,678,059,800 | 18,093,560,801 | 0.95 | 17,200,874,481 | 4,891,851 | 0.03576 |
| Kāpiti Coast district | Ōtaki rating area | Residential | Ōtaki rating areaResidential | 1,671,453,400 | 2,211,025,844 | 0.53 | 1,180,679,167 | 335,780 | 0.02009 |
| Kāpiti Coast district | Kāpiti Coast district | Rural | Kāpiti Coast districtRural | 2,657,907,950 | 3,515,924,027 | 0.24 | 839,206,574 | 238,667 | 0.00898 |
| Masterton district | Masterton district | Business | Masterton districtBusiness | 736,487,600 | 943,938,384 | 0.87 | 825,786,784 | 234,850 | 0.03189 |
| Masterton district | Masterton district | Residential | Masterton districtResidential | 4,080,427,400 | 5,229,785,329 | 0.46 | 2,396,102,349 | 681,441 | 0.01670 |
| Masterton district | Masterton district | Rural | Masterton districtRural | 3,970,969,155 | 5,089,495,338 | 0.22 | 1,120,985,947 | 318,803 | 0.00803 |
| Carterton district | Carterton district | Business | Carterton districtBusiness | 133,894,500 | 178,686,335 | 0.91 | 162,208,540 | 46,131 | 0.03445 |
| Carterton district | Carterton district | Residential | Carterton districtResidential | 1,318,035,500 | 1,758,958,975 | 0.49 | 863,854,691 | 245,676 | 0.01864 |
| Carterton district | Carterton district | Rural | Carterton districtRural | 2,277,084,800 | 3,038,839,808 | 0.23 | 693,724,987 | 197,292 | 0.00866 |
| South Wairarapa district | South Wairarapa district | Business | South Wairarapa districtBusiness | 287,242,000 | 366,843,498 | 0.93 | 341,791,127 | 97,204 | 0.03384 |
| South Wairarapa district | South Wairarapa district | Residential | South Wairarapa districtResidential | 2,151,921,500 | 2,748,269,437 | 0.52 | 1,415,473,146 | 402,554 | 0.01871 |
| South Wairarapa district | South Wairarapa district | Rural | South Wairarapa districtRural | 3,915,526,700 | 5,000,611,016 | 0.23 | 1,169,678,551 | 332,651 | 0.00850 |
| Tararua district | Tararua district | Rural | Tararua districtRural | 15,976,500 | 21,686,475 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0.00000 |
| Region wide | | | | 208,896,062,055 | 253,199,777,591 | | 318,776,105,238 | 90,658,480 | |

G) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 Transport Rates?

Please refer to **attachment 4** – Metlink budget 2022-23 for more detail

Revenue helping to offset targeted transport rates

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Subsidies and grants for operating purposes | \$107,382,000 |
| Fees and Charges | \$101,431,000 |
| Interest and Dividends from Investment | - |
| Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts | \$4,310,000 |

As per the 2022 Revenue and Financing Policy, the revenue amounts to cover the operational expenditure, is split between ‘Fees and User charges’, Subsidies and Targeted rates.

| Public Transport | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Activity | Operational expenditure | | | | Capital expenditure | | |
| | Fees and user charges | Subsidies | Targeted rate | General rate | Borrowings (debt) | Proceeds from asset sales | Reserve funds |
| | Average 30 percent of total operating revenue from fares and other user charges over the years of the Long Term Plan. To maintain the fares share of funding, fares will be adjusted annually with inflation within 1 percent to 3 percent, subject to Council decisions through annual fares and budget review. | Level of contribution from Crown agencies, primarily Waka Kotahi is determined by Waka Kotahi’s Funding Assistance Rates (51 percent to 100 percent depending on activity) and co-investment policy. | Balance, calculated on ECV, with differentials based on land use, location and provision of service, up to the levels set by the rates (increase) affordability benchmark. | | Waka Kotahi does not contribute to debt funding, therefore borrowing is the primary source for capital expenditure. | When available | When available |

H) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2022/23 Transport Rates?

Please refer to **attachment 4** – Metlink budget 2022-23 for more detail.

Revenue is sourced from ‘Government grants and subsidies’, the ‘regional transport rate’ and ‘transport fares’.

I) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of the changes (contributions and withdrawals) from the Transport Reserve over the past three years including the source for the contributions and the target for the withdrawals?

A Reserves Report is available in all Greater Wellington Annual Plans and Long Term Plans.

This report lists all Greater Wellington reserves, the Opening balances, and any deposits and withdrawals. The last three years of changes (contributions and withdrawals) from the Transport Reserve can be found in three separate Annual Plans (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21).

| | | | Opening Bal (000) | Deposits (000) | Withdrawals (000) | Closing (000) | Greater Wellington Regional Council — Annual reports (gwrc.govt.nz) | |
|-------|--------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|--|------|
| 18/19 | Public Transport Reserve | Any funding surplus or deficit relating to the provision of public transport services is used only on subsequent public transport expenditure | 15,423 | 502 | -2,159 | 13,766 | Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Report 2018/2019 (gwrc.govt.nz) | p108 |
| 19/20 | Public Transport Reserve | Any funding surplus or deficit relating to the provision of public transport services is used only on subsequent public transport expenditure | 13,765 | 350 | -2,841 | 11,274 | Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Report 2019/2020 (gwrc.govt.nz) | p94 |
| 20/21 | Public Transport Reserve | Any funding surplus or deficit relating to the provision of public transport services is used only on subsequent public transport expenditure | 11,274 | 1,747 | -500 | 12,521 | Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Report 2020/2021 (gwrc.govt.nz) | p104 |

J) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any reports or presentations to GWRC councillors at Annual Plan 2022/23 workshops?

Please refer **attachments 5, 6 and 7** (Annual Plan updates to Councillors).

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sue McLean
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Ratonga Rangapū | General Manager Corporate Services

Attachment 1 – Rates Model 2022/23
Attachment 2 – Annual Plan 2022/23
Attachment 3 – 2021-31 Long Term Plan Supporting Information
Attachment 4 – Metlink budget 2022/23
Attachment 5 – 2022/23 Annual Plan update to Councillors December 2021
Attachment 6 – 2022/23 Annual Plan update to Councillors March 2022