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Nick Walker
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Dear Nick Walker

Request for information under the Official Information Act 1982

I am writing in response to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) for response on 15 December 2014, for the following information:

"...how much the consultation process, undertaken by the Local Government Commission into the proposed council amalgamation in the Wellington region, has cost.

The cost should include the total amount spent throughout the process of consulting different bodies leading up to the draft recommendation that nine councils amalgamate.

... the final cost figure...broken down to show exactly where the money was spent.

...how many different parties were consulted during the process, and when that process officially began and ended.

If possible...the budgeted cost of the entire process going forward... how much it is expected to cost altogether."

I can advise that I am declining your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the Department does not hold the information in the detail requested. However, I understand that the Local Government Commission (the Commission) may hold this information. While the Commission is not subject to the Act, it does provide information in response to requests where possible. I have therefore forwarded your request to the Commission for their consideration and direct reply.

You have the right by way of complaint under section 28(3) of the Act to an Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of my decision. The contact address is: Office of the Ombudsman, P O Box 10152, Wellington.

Yours sincerely

P-P.
Richard Marshal
Policy Director

Cc Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Commission

