

9 October 2024

File Ref: IRC-7085

Mike
fyi-request-28365-1e32841b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mike,

Thank you for your email dated 12 September 2024 to Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information relating to Parking Services' Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) vehicles:

Under the Official Information Act could you please confirm the existence of two WCC purchased vehicles, which have been adapted to photograph parked vehicles around the streets of Wellington, specifically to identify vehicles that have overstayed their parking time.

Please advise:

- 1. The cost of each vehicle and the total cost to install the technology needed to catch out parkers.*
- 2. What type of fuels are these vehicles running on and what is the total fuel cost to the council per annum.*
- 3. What is the total cost of staff wages to employ the drivers needed for this function.*
- 4. Why is the council adding more vehicles to the roads when they are actively discouraging Wellington locals out of their vehicles.*
- 5. What is the total revenue collected by the council specifically from these vehicles.*
- 6. I understand these vehicles drive around the city on specified routes. Please supply a map outlining the areas these vehicles operate in.*
- 7. Does the council believe their ratepayers would approve, or agree to, the purchase of these vehicles when they have been designed to fine drivers in the city.*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). Please find my response below.

Background Information

As reported on the Council's [website](#), we are introducing four new cars to our Parking Services fleet, with the latest Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) technology, which is a more efficient way of monitoring parking in the city and suburbs.

The Council's [Parking Policy](#) is designed to manage parking pressures over the next 10-20 years as the city grows. As on-street parking becomes more constrained, the Council needs to ensure that parking turns over where appropriate and that parking for specific purposes is used for that intended purpose. Operating these vehicles will allow us to enforce those objectives more consistently with greater efficiency.

The LPR vehicles are clearly identified as Wellington City Council Parking Services vehicles and will operate within the requirements of the Privacy Act.

Question 1 - *The cost of each vehicle and the total cost to install the technology needed to catch out parkers.*

The cost of each of vehicle was \$49,255.33 including GST.

With respect to the costs surrounding the LPR technology, including its installation, this part of your request has been refused under section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as this information is commercially sensitive.

However, I can confirm the LPR technology was approved and budgeted for in the Council's 2021 [Long-Term Plan](#).

Question 2 - *What type of fuels are these vehicles running on and what is the total fuel cost to the council per annum.*

The cars are Mitsubishi Eclipse hybrid cars. The use of hybrid vehicles supports the Council's climate action plan, Te Atakura – First to Zero, and the goal to reduce the city's gross emissions by 57% by 2030 and become net zero by 2050.

More information regarding Te Atakura can be found [here](#).

Please find below a breakdown of the fuel costs for these hybrid vehicles:

Financial year 2023/24 - \$7,931.00

Financial year 2024/25 (so far) - \$350.00

Please note, the above costs relate to petrol fuel, I am unable to confirm the costs when the hybrid vehicles are being charged via an electrical outlet as these costs are not broken down to that level of specificity. Therefore this part of your request has been refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA as the information requested is not held.

Question 3 - *What is the total cost of staff wages to employ the drivers needed for this function.*

With respect to the salaries and person hours of staff involved in driving the new Parking Services fleet vehicle with LPR technology, the Council does not hold this information as staff are salaried and we do not record the number of hours spent on the varying areas of their roles. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the LGOIMA as the information requested is not held.

Question 4 - *Why is the council adding more vehicles to the roads when they are actively discouraging Wellington locals out of their vehicles.*

As touched on under 'background information' the LPR vehicles will enable our parking officers to be in more places, more often, and will improve efficiency and consistency so that the public gets fairer access to the car parks available.

The use of the hybrid vehicles also provides parking officers with a safer work environment when undertaking enforcement, as our parking officers can be subject to verbal or physical abuse during foot patrols.

Question 5 - *What is the total revenue collected by the council specifically from these vehicles.*

As confirmed on our [website](#), the hybrid vehicles are currently being used for training and to survey parking usage which will gather parking data to help us plan for the city's parking needs.

Enforcement using these vehicles has not yet started and therefore no infringements have been issued utilising vehicle based LPR technology. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(e) of the Act because the requested information does not exist.

Question 6 - *I understand these vehicles drive around the city on specified routes. Please supply a map outlining the areas these vehicles operate in.*

As enforcement using the vehicles has not yet started, no predetermined route for these hybrid vehicles has been created, however over time they will be used to manage time restricted and permit related parking areas across the city. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(e) of the Act because the requested information does not exist.

Question 7 - *Does the council believe their ratepayers would approve, or agree to, the purchase of these vehicles when they have been designed to fine drivers in the city.*

Last year, the Council received an average of 1100 complaints a month from the public of illegal parking, for offences such as parking in residents' areas without a permit and/or overstaying. LPR vehicles will enable our parking officers to respond to complaints more quickly across the city, without an increase in staff numbers. To avoid getting a ticket, we recommend people always check the signs where they're parking and follow the rules for that location.

You have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(1) of the LGOIMA, to request an investigation and review of the Council's decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you require further information, please contact official.information@wcc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



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