

12 October 2018

LGOIMA No. 8140003485
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Indira Crawford
By Email: fyi-request-8550-31dab445@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Indira

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987

Employment Checks

I refer to your request which we received on 24 August 2018, regarding information in relation to employment checks over the past year. I also refer to my letter of 21 September 2018, extending the timeframe for us to respond to your request. Thank you for your patience while we have worked on this response.

I can advise that in accordance with section 12 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) we have transferred your request to Auckland Transport and Watercare for a separate response, in addition to ours.

Our response to your questions is as follows:

How many criminal background checks has Council and its CCOs carried out on its existing staff for internal vacancies?

| Organisation | Ministry of Justice check (MOJ) | Police vetting (for Vulnerable Children's Act purposes) |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Auckland Council parent | 440 | 71 |
| Auckland Council Investments Limited (ACIL) | 0 | 0 |
| Auckland Tourism, Events & Economic Development (ATEED) | 15 | 0 |
| Panuku Development Auckland (Panuku) | 13 | 0 |
| Regional Facilities Auckland (RFA) | 22 | 13 |
| Independent Maori Statutory Board (IMSB) | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 491 | 84 |

Name all the positions/job titles that required these criminal background checks?

Please refer to the **Attachment 1** for a list of (internal vacancy) job titles that required Police vetting or Ministry of Justice checks.

How many internal criminal background checks were conducted without the applicant's consent?

None. All such checks through our external provider require the applicant's consent.

How many internal staff failed the criminal background checks?

Of the 1814 requests for a Ministry of Justice check or a Police vet, there were 87 that indicated some form of conviction or that the individual had been charged with an offence.

(Please note that the 1814 figure differs from the figure provided in the first response above as it includes a significant number of Vulnerable Children's Act related checks, which are not undertaken in the context of a recruitment process)

However, we are not able to differentiate between the Auckland Council parent and Council-controlled organisations (CCOs) or between internal and external applicants in relation to this request without substantial collation.

We are also not able to advise whether applications "failed", as each application is considered on its merits, which may include the person's criminal background.

Accordingly, we are unable to respond to this aspect of your request pursuant to section 17(f) of the LGOIMA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Of those who failed the criminal background check, how many are still employed by Council and their CCOs?

No one has been dismissed in the past 12 months because of the results of a criminal background check undertaken in the course of an internal recruitment process.

What is the total value spent on criminal background checks in the past year and how much from that was spent on internal vacancies?

The total cost of all criminal background checks undertaken by Auckland Council in relation to the Auckland Council parent and the four CCOs (excluding Watercare and Auckland Transport) was \$62,538.

However, as mentioned above, we are not able to differentiate between the Auckland Council parent and CCOs or between internal and external applicants in relation to this request without substantial collation.

Please provide any internal document or policy that outlines the criteria for assessing whether an internal vacancy requires a criminal background check.

Please refer to **Attachment 2** which outlines the criteria for assessing whether an internal vacancy requires a criminal background check.

I hope you find this information helpful. I also wish to apologise for the delay in getting this response to you and draw your attention to your right to seek a review from the Office of the Ombudsmen about this extension.

If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140003485.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Hua', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Hua
Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner
Democracy Services