

By email

28 March 2019

File Ref: OIAP-7-10243

Tony Randle

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX.XXX.XX

Shed 39, 2 Fryatt Quay
Pipitea, Wellington 6011
PO Box 11646
Manners Street
Wellington 6142
T 04 384 5708
F 04 385 6960
www.gw.govt.nz

Dear Mr Randle

Request for information OIA 2019-073

I refer to your email dated 1 March 2019 which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) on 1 March 2019. You have requested the following information:

“I am interested in the work and supporting calculations for the planned Fare Review to be undertaken as part of the 2019/20 Annual Plan. I understand from my previous request that the fare review document and supporting information will be available by the 25th of March 2019 (<https://fyi.org.nz/request/9497-request-for-fare-review-information-under-the-2019-20-annual-plan>).

- 1) Can I please have a copy of any reports, presentations or workshop material on the public transport fares since December 2018 ? Please include any appendices.*
- 2) Can I please have a copy of the detailed calculations used to support the Farebox Recovery Ratios for the 2019/20 year ?*
- 3) Can I please have a copy of the detailed public transport costs used in the calculation of the Farebox Recovery Ratios as outlined in 2) ?*
- 4) Can I please have a copy of the detailed revenue estimates used in the calculation of the Farebox Recovery Ratios as outlined in 2) ?*
- 5) Can I please have a copy of any council workshops where the 2019/20 Farebox Recovery Ratios were discussed including any agenda, workshop attendees, minutes and presentation information ?*
- 6) Can I please have a copy of any reports, presentations or workshop material on the impact of the public transport costs on fares and/or the Farebox Recovery Ratio since December 2018 ? Please include any appendices.*

If the requested information is held in electronic form, I would prefer it was provided in its complete and original electronic format. I would also prefer that all correspondence be via the FYI web site.”



GWRC's response follows:

1) A copy of any reports, presentations or workshop material on the public transport fares since December 2018, including any appendices

Attachment 1 is a copy of the workshop material on results of the 2019 fares review presented to the Council workshop on Annual Plan on 8 March 2019.

Attachment 2 contains fares related information that was presented to the Council workshop on 8 March 2019. The attached presentation contains relevant slides from an original presentation.

Results of the 2019 fares review was reported to the Council meeting on 21 March 2019, which can be accessed from the following public link: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/committee-meetings-calendar/detail/7576>.

No other report, presentation or workshop material were produced on public transport fares or fares review since December 2018.

2) A copy of the detailed calculations used to support the Farebox Recovery Ratios for the 2019/20 year

Attachments 3(a) and 3(b) are electronic copies of the calculations used for reporting on actual Farebox Recovery ratios for the entire network and each mode under the current Farebox Recovery Policy in the Regional Public Transport Plan (PT Plan) and projections of the User Contribution ratios for the entire network under the current Long Term Plan (LTP 2018-28).

The calculations were undertaken as part of the 2019 fares review process. A summary of the calculations is included in the [Report 2019.93](#) to the Council meeting held on 21 March 2019.

Contents of the attached documents were updated with the latest forecast and budget numbers after the [Report 2019.93](#) was published. This has resulted in the ratios contained in the attachments to this response being slightly different from the ratios contained in the Council report. These differences were reported to the councillors in the meeting on 21 March.

The attachments need to be read in conjunction with the [Attachment 1 to Report 19.93](#) (Proposed Fares Review Process and Guidelines). These documents can be accessed from the following link: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/committee-meetings-calendar/detail/7576>

To reflect the effects of the changes to bus contracts and the approach to the fares share of funding in LTP since July 2018, a revised template is used for calculations of farebox recovery (PT Plan) and fares share of funding (LTP) in this year's fares review.

Please note that the revised template is provisional and may change as the new approach and formula is being incorporated into the GWRC's accounting system for consistency.

The additional columns "D" and "E" and rows 31 to 36 in the spreadsheet "Summary Report" are added solely for the purpose of illustrating how the change in approach and contracting

environment has changed the layout of fares revenue and costs and consequently the farebox recovery and user contribution ratios. These columns and rows are not relevant under the current funding approach and will be removed from the template for subsequent fare reviews.

Under the performance-based contracts, the payments to the operators are subject to an obligation of confidence. This information has been withheld in accordance with section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the ground that releasing this information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the operators or suppliers in a competitive market.

Accordingly, we have provided you with the requested information in two formats:

- **Attachment 3(a):** is an electronic copy of the calculations (with the actual and projected cost information relating to contracts deleted) in a format that gives the formulae
- **Attachment 3(b):** is an electronic copy of the calculations (with the actual and projected cost information relating to contracts deleted) in a format that gives the figures but does not give the formulae behind the figures

Please note that with these formats the values in the 'Summary Report' are affected in Attachment 3(a). This has occurred because the formulas in that part of the document rely on the redacted values in other worksheets. Where data has been deleted from a cell, the value of the cell becomes zero; however any formula that uses the redacted cell will still be visible in the formula bar.

The current Farebox Recovery Policy formula has been used for calculation of the actual farebox recovery ratios in the attached spreadsheets. The actual farebox recovery ratios are calculated for individual modes and for the entire network.

The projected user contribution ratios are provided as part of the 2019 Annual Plan process along with the actual farebox recovery performance.

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

As requested, we have provided you with the data and calculations undertaken by GWRC in its complete and original form.

3) A copy of the detailed public transport costs used in the calculation of the Farebox Recovery Ratios as outlined in 2)

Attachments 3(a) and 3(b) contain the actual public transport costs for 2017/18 and projections of the costs for 2018/19 and 2019/20. Please note the explanations under the answer to question 2).

4) A copy of the detailed revenue estimates used in the calculation of the Farebox Recovery Ratios as outlined in 2)

Attachments 3(a) and 3(b) contain the actual public transport fare revenue for 2017/18 and projections of fare revenue for 2018/19 and 2019/20. Please note the explanations under the answer to question 2).

5) A copy of any council workshops where the 2019/20 Farebox Recovery Ratios were discussed including any agenda, workshop attendees, minutes and presentation information

Attachment 1 is a copy of the workshop material on results of the 2019 fares review presented to the Council workshop on Annual Plan on 8 March 2019.

Council workshops do not have any formal agenda or minutes. Depending on the subject, presentations may outline the topics for consideration by Council in the workshops. No agenda or minutes have been recorded on the subject of fares review presented to the Council on 8 March 2019.

6) A copy of any reports, presentations or workshop material on the impact of the public transport costs on fares and/or the Farebox Recovery Ratio since December 2018, including any appendices

Please refer to the answers and attachments under questions 1 to 5. No other report, presentation or workshop material was produced specifically on the impact of public transport costs on fares since December 2018.

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 Act.

Yours sincerely



Greg Pollock
General Manager, Public Transport