



16 June 2021

[REDACTED]

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – RELEASE OF INFORMATION

We refer to your official information request dated 14 June 2021. You requested the following information from the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC):

- I am working on another project connected with QLDC expenditure - but came across this line today (image below) showing QLDC spent \$255,120 with the Fresh Choice supermarket in 2019 - 2020.
- Can you help me understand what this amount of food/drinks was used for and some background to this spend - plus how Fresh Choice was selected after zero spend in previous years? Was another local supermarket used before then?

QLDC response

The expenditure with Fresh Choice Supermarket relates to the 2020 Civil Defence Covid-19 national emergency response. QLDC took the lead locally in purchasing and distributing food vouchers for people who were eligible as part of the national Covid-19 response. All costs were reimbursed by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

This was a process developed specifically in response to the 2020 Covid-19 crisis. No other providers were used prior to this time as this expenditure relates solely to the Covid-19 emergency response

QLDC is committed to the principle of availability and is pleased to be assisting you with your request.

Right to review the above decision

Note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Governance, Engagement & Communications Manager).

We trust this response satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Jones', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Phil Jones
Senior Governance and Official Information Advisor