

22 December 2023

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – PARTIAL RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (**QLDC**). On 23 November 2023 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (**LGOIMA**):

1. The number of people employed by the council.
2. The number of people in receipt of health care subsidy.
3. The amount of the subsidy for each individual.
4. The total yearly cost of the subsidy to the ratepayer or taxpayer.
5. The lowest salary band and how many employees are on this band.
6. The highest salary band and how many employees occupy this band.
7. What is the highest salary paid by the council?

QLDC response

Please see our response below:

1. *The number of people employed by the council.*
 - 478.40 FTE
2. *The number of people in receipt of health care subsidy.*
3. *The amount of the subsidy for each individual.*
 - We are unable to provide the information for Q2 & Q3 due to this being commercially sensitive. We have provided our rationale for the withholding grounds later in our response.
4. *The total yearly cost of the subsidy to the ratepayer or taxpayer.*
 - For the financial year ended 30 June 2023 the Health Insurance Subsidy paid was \$446,006.
5. *The lowest salary band and how many employees are on this band.*
 - Grade 7 – 45 people
6. *The highest salary band and how many employees occupy this band.*
 - Grade 34 – 1 person
7. *What is the highest salary paid by the council?*
 - \$415,321.09

Decision to withhold remaining information requested

We have good grounds under the LGOIMA for withholding the information requested in full and consider it is necessary to withhold this on the basis of the following grounds:

- s 7(2)(h) – to enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Section 7(2)(h) of the LGOIMA provides that information can be withheld if the withholding of the information is necessary to 'enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. In this case, the withholding of any commercially sensitive information enables QLDC external contractors to carry out their operations without any prejudice or disadvantage.

Council trusts this response answers your request.

Kind Regards,




Official Information Advisor