

25 May 2023

██████████
Sent via email to ██████████

Dear ██████

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – PARTIAL RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (**QLDC**). On 28 April 2023 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (**LGOIMA**):

- A list of 15 questions relating to QLDC recycling services (detailed in an attachment that is shared in this response).

QLDC response

Your survey questions and our answers can be accessed through this link:

[Recycling survey - questions and answers](#)

There is one question in the survey that we haven't answered. We explain why below.

We trust the above information satisfactorily answers the relevant components of your request.

Decision to withhold remaining information requested

We have good grounds under the LGOIMA for withholding the answer to question 4 – “what is the annual charge for kerbside residual and recycling services?”. We consider it is necessary to withhold this information on the basis of the following ground:

- s 7(2)(b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

If we were to release the annual charge for kerbside residual and recycling services, alongside the release of the number of residentially rated dwellings and the recycling lift frequency, then it would be possible to determine a “per lift” rate. The release of such rates could prejudice the commercial position of our recycling contractors, as any competitors could compare the identified costs with their own prices.

Public interest considerations

We consider the interests of the public when making decisions to withhold requested information, including considerations in favour of release, whether the disclosure of the information would

promote those considerations, and whether those considerations outweighed the need to withhold the information.

Promoting the accountability and transparency of local authority members and officials is in the public interest, as is the general public interest in “good government”. Where possible, we have favoured the release of information.

However, we do not believe that these public interest considerations mean we should release the information withheld. Protecting a competitive business environment, in the recycling space, is essential for ensuring costs are contained and rate payer money is spent efficiently.

We conclude that the important section 7 withholding interests identified (e.g. commercial sensitivity), which relate to a subset of the information within the scope of your request, are not outweighed by a countervailing public interest requiring release.

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 & Stakeholder Services Manager).

We trust this response satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Patterson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Madeline Patterson
Senior Official Information Advisor