

23 January 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-24701

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2023-304**

I refer to your request for information dated 10 December 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 10 December 2023. You have requested the following:

*“Topic A - Ombudsman's report 'Open for Business' dated October 2023*

- 1) what steps has your territorial authority taken in regards to the Ombudsman's report?*
- 2) what actions/motions have been passed by your territorial authority in response to the Ombudsman's report?*
- 3) what steps are still under consideration?*
- 4) what has or will the total cost been of any changes?*

*Topic B - costs relating to councillors interactions*

- 1) How much has your territorial authority budgeted in each of the last 3 years for any costs related to councillor conduct. This could include individual conduct or between other councillors, mayor/chair or Chief Executive. This may include mediation, legal fees, legal investigations and similar.*
- 2) How much has your territorial authority spent in each of the last 3 financial years for any costs related to councillor conduct. This could include individual conduct or between other councillors, mayor/chair or Chief Executive. This may include mediation, legal fees, legal investigations and similar.*

*Topic C - staffing numbers*

- 1) What is the full FTE staff number if your territorial authority was fully staffed?*
- 2) What is your current FTE staff number employed?*
- 3) What percentage of full FTE staff required is currently vacant?*

- 4) *What percentage of the vacant positions are not being actively recruited to fill. Eg what percentage are currently remaining vacant?*
- 5) *What effect will these vacancies have on the services your territorial authority delivers / can deliver?*

*Topic D - senior leadership*

- 1) *Has your Chief Executive resigned, or a new CE been appointed in the last 3 years?*
- 2) *How many of your Tier Two leaders resigned, or a new leader been appointed in the last 3 years?*
- 3) *Have your territorial authority had a staff restructure implemented, considered by senior leadership or consulted in in the last 3 years. This includes a restructure of the whole territorial authority, or one or more department.*

*Topic E - contractors*

- 1) *How much was budgeted by your territorial authority in each of the last 3 years for external contractors?*
- 2) *How much was the budgeted amount as a percentage of total income for each of the last three years?*
- 3) *How much was spent by your territorial authority in each of the last 3 years for external contractors?*
- 4) *How much was the amount spent on contractors as a percentage of total income for each of the last three years?*
- 5) *Is your territorial authority's spend on contractors expected to increase this year because of staffing shortages.*
- 6) *Could the services contracted for be hired directly under the territorial authority?*
- 7) *What were the three companies, receiving the highest contractors spend in the last year?"*

**Greater Wellington's response follows:**

As Greater Wellington is not a territorial authority, we clarified your request to confirm that you intended to include regional councils in your request. On 13 December 2023, you responded to confirm this.

**Topic A - Ombudsman's report 'Open for Business' dated October 2023**

**1 What steps has your territorial authority taken in regards to the Ombudsman's report?**

Officers are currently reviewing the Ombudsman's "Open for Business" report, with the view to discussing relevant matters with Councillors early in 2024.

**2 What actions/motions have been passed by your territorial authority in response to the Ombudsman's report?**

There have been no resolutions made by Council on the Ombudsman's Open for Business report.

**3 What steps are still under consideration?**

Please refer to our response to question 1 above.

**4 What has or will the total cost been of any changes?**

Given changes to our practices in response to the Ombudsman's Open for Business report have not yet been determined, it is not possible to quantify the cost of giving effect to any potential future changes.

**Topic B - costs relating to councillors interactions**

**1 How much has your territorial authority budgeted in each of the last 3 years for any costs related to councillor conduct. This could include individual conduct or between other councillors, mayor/chair or Chief Executive. This may include mediation, legal fees, legal investigations and similar.**

There is no specific budget allocation related to Councillor conduct.

**2 How much has your territorial authority spent in each of the last 3 financial years for any costs related to councillor conduct. This could include individual conduct or between other councillors, mayor/chair or Chief Executive. This may include mediation, legal fees, legal investigations and similar.**

There has been no expenditure related to Councillor conduct in the last three financial years.

**Topic C - staffing numbers**

**1 What is the full FTE staff number if your territorial authority was fully staffed?**

848.32 FTE as at 14 December 2023.

**2 What is your current FTE staff number employed?**

733.44 FTE as at 14 December 2023.

**3 What percentage of full FTE staff required is currently vacant?**

13.54%.

**4 What percentage of the vacant positions are not being actively recruited to fill. Eg what percentage are currently remaining vacant?**

53%. Recruitment activity slowed down in the approach to the Christmas/New Year period. Recruitment activity will increase again this year.

**5 What effect will these vacancies have on the services your territorial authority delivers / can deliver?**

No effect in the short term; however, if we are unable to fill the required positions this would impact Greater Wellington's ability to deliver on planned activities.

**Topic D - senior leadership**

**1 Has your Chief Executive resigned, or a new CE been appointed in the last 3 years?**

Yes. Greater Wellington's previous Chief Executive, Greg Campbell, reached the end of their term on 14 September 2021. The new Chief Executive, Nigel Corry, started their five year term on 15 September 2021.

**2 How many of your Tier Two leaders resigned, or a new leader been appointed in the last 3 years?**

One Tier 2 leader has resigned in the last three years and three have been appointed. There has been some change over this time as well as a number of acting arrangements which account for variance in appointments.

**3 Have your territorial authority had a staff restructure implemented, considered by senior leadership or consulted in in the last 3 years. This includes a restructure of the whole territorial authority, or one or more department.**

Yes, as per below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of staff restructures</b>
2020	6
2021	8
2022	4
2023	7

The numbers above capture all organisational change processes which have required formal consultation due to a proposed impact to one or more employees.

## Topic E - contractors

**1 How much was budgeted by your territorial authority in each of the last 3 years for external contractors?**

FY 2021: \$62.9 million

FY 2022: \$69.8 million

FY 2023: \$84.5 million.

**2 How much was the budgeted amount as a percentage of total income for each of the last three years?**

FY 2021: 12%

FY 2022: 15%

FY 2023: 17%.

**3 How much was spent by your territorial authority in each of the last 3 years for external contractors?**

FY 2021: \$66.9 million

FY 2022: \$74.8 million

FY 2023: \$86.7 million.

**4 How much was the amount spent on contractors as a percentage of total income for each of the last three years?**

FY 2021: 15%

FY 2022: 17%

FY 2023: 16%.

**5 Is your territorial authority's spend on contractors expected to increase this year because of staffing shortages.**

Greater Wellington Regional Council's budget has increased in 2023/24; this is not driven by staffing shortages but instead by a number of material short to medium term projects. The Let's Get Wellington Moving project is the largest of these, but with recent Government directives this is expected to reduce.

**6 Could the services contracted for be hired directly under the territorial authority?**

Potentially some services that are currently contracted could be hired directly but the majority of services contracted are, as stated above, for finite term projects where it would be challenging to recruit and would not be beneficial to hire directly.

**7 What were the three companies, receiving the highest contractors spend in the last year?**

The three organisations with the highest contractor spend in the last year are:

- New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, for work relating to Let's Get Wellington Moving.
- Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc. for Kaupapa and Tuapapa funding.
- SkyTEM Australia Pty Ltd who were contracted in to 3D map the Ruamāhanga valley's aquifers.

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 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Luke Troy**  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua Rautaki | Group Manager Strategy