

Date released: 26th April 2024



Request: OIA-1348

Original LGOIMA Request:

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Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:

1. A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā [formally known as the NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM)]
2. For each payment:
 - a. the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for* and
 - b. whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.

Given the nature of Taituarā as a membership organisation – in effect the employment union for local government managers – if membership dues are not recovered or deducted, please provide:

- a. the reasoning (if any) for not deducting the amounts (i.e. Why should ratepayers pay for a private organisation/benefit?) and
- b. whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?

If the Council considers that the membership for Council officers is as part of their role at the Council (and therefore not for private benefit) please provide this information and explain how Taituarā is not therefore treated as a CCO under s 6(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the purposes of the Council group's statutory reporting.

**this information should be easily available from the Council's accounting system. The source documents (invoice) are not requested/required (the description copied from the Council's accounting/records system is fine).*

Official LGOIMA Response:

Council Officers have reviewed your request and have collated the answers in red and in a table below in response.

Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:

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2. For each payment:
 - a. the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for and

inv_dte	trn_dte	trn_nme	trn_ref	act_val	trn_dsc
Inv Date	Tran Date	Type Description	Reference	Value	Description
14/12/2023	19/12/2023	Invoice INV	18455	-851	Registration for Taituara Marsh Risk Management Fo
07/12/2023	07/12/2023	Invoice INV	18352	-373.75	Registration to Navigating the Maze á?? LTPs and
01/12/2023	01/12/2023	Invoice INV	18303	-373.75	Waitaki District Council Registration to Webinar:
21/11/2023	21/11/2023	Invoice INV	18242	-373.75	Registration for Waitaki District Council to parti
02/11/2023	02/11/2023	Invoice INV	18153	-373.75	WDC registration for webinar on 13 December 2023 -
11/10/2023	12/10/2023	Invoice INV	17988	-373.75	Waitaki District Council (Member) registration for
09/10/2023	10/10/2023	Invoice INV	23-99	-230	Tour of the Hawke's Bay Region
18/09/2023	19/09/2023	Invoice INV	23-20	-1368.5	Taituará? Conference Registration
18/09/2023	19/09/2023	Invoice INV	23-19	-1138.5	Taituará? Conference Registration
14/08/2023	17/08/2023	Invoice INV	12125	-14016.12	SectorGood Work Programme - Annual Sub 1 July 2023
21/08/2023	23/08/2023	Invoice INV	17760	-1667.5	Online: Writing for Local Government Decisions cou
21/07/2023	24/07/2023	Invoice INV	12007	-2070	'How Local Government Works' e-learning subscripti
04/08/2023	08/08/2023	Invoice INV	17613	-373.75	Procurement Webinar - 22 August
02/08/2023	03/08/2023	Invoice INV	17590	-373.75	Registration for Taituara webinar "The July Legisl
11/07/2023	13/07/2023	Invoice INV	17413	-2530	Registration for Conference
13/07/2023	13/07/2023	Invoice INV	17397	-287.5	Registration for Taituara Webinars (By
10/07/2023	13/07/2023	Invoice INV	17398	-287.5	Registration Taituara Webinars
13/07/2023	13/07/2023	Invoice INV	17399	-287.5	Registration Taituara Webinar
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11800	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11790	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11791	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11796	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11793	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	316.25	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11789	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11801	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11788	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11792	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11798	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11802	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11799	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11795	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11803	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
03/07/2023	04/07/2023	Invoice INV	11794	-316.25	Taituará? Membership Renewal
23/06/2023	23/06/2023	Invoice INV	17269	-287.5	Registration for the Webinar: What happened to the
07/06/2023	07/06/2023	Invoice INV	11667	-316.25	Taituara Membership
16/05/2023	18/05/2023	Invoice INV	17031	-287.5	1 seat 23 May 23 Webinar: LGOIMA an
08/05/2023	11/05/2023	Invoice INV	16905	-287.5	Council registration for Embedding
03/02/2023	03/02/2023	Invoice INV	16129	-1104	Ticket to Taituara Engagement Forum
03/04/2023	04/04/2023	Invoice INV	16638	-3168.25	Civic Financial Services Strategic Finance Fo, etc
28/03/2023	28/03/2023	Invoice INV	16583	-1104	Wellbeing forum registration
13/03/2023	14/03/2023	Invoice INV	16416	-621	Registration to attend the Road to t
13/03/2023	14/03/2023	Invoice INV	16414	-207	Taituara PWC CE Forum Gala Dinner and Excellence A
01/03/2023	02/03/2023	Invoice INV	11581	-287.5	LTP 101 Webinar recording - pre-requisite for atte
15/02/2023	16/02/2023	Invoice INV	16231	-718.75	Taituara Marsh Risk Management Forum
07/02/2023	07/02/2023	Invoice INV	16143	-448.5	Workshop - Collaborative Leadership for Futire
03/02/2023	03/02/2023	Invoice INV	16123	-1449	Registration for Dunedin LTP Roadshow (Taituara) f
01/02/2023	01/02/2023	Invoice INV	16085	-2208	Attendance at the Taituara Engagement Forum 20-21
24/01/2023	24/01/2023	Invoice INV	15975	-621	Dunedin LTP Roadshow

b. whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.

No payments were recovered (or deducted from the pay) from any employee.

Given the nature of Taituarā as a membership organisation – in effect the employment union for local government managers – if membership dues are not recovered or deducted, please provide:

a. the reasoning (if any) for not deducting the amounts (i.e. Why should ratepayers pay for a private organisation/benefit?) and

Taituarā is not a union and plays no role in the negotiation of employment contracts or employment relations for any individual or group within the sector. Membership is voluntary rather than a requirement as is the case for example with lawyers, accountants etc. For staff that have a membership, it a valuable resource to complete their role at the Council.

Taituarā completes work on behalf of the sector including the development of guides and resources to help the sector implement legislation and, working with central government and its agencies to ensure legislation is workable (for example, making a submission on a Bill or discussion document), and so on. Taituarā also provides events that provide sector specific training and professional development opportunities, as well as networking opportunities with fellow local government sector staff. Councils sending staff on these opportunities do so to provide them with training and knowledge to do their jobs well – just as any good employer would do.

Whether the council or the individual pays the membership is a matter for the council and employee to negotiate. We have concluded that it is an appropriate cost to be borne by the Council, to aid staff in completing their role at the Council.

b. whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?

Council does not pay for employment union membership.

As is common practice across a wide range of entities, Council pays for membership to a variety of professional associations, as relevant to the role that the staff member performs, in order for them to maintain their knowledge and qualification.

Member fees for a professional body is often a term of employment includes a range of professional organisations such as the Law Society, CAANZ, LIANZA, Apopo, various building, engineering institutes etc.

If the Council considers that the membership for Council officers is *as part of their role at the Council* (and therefore not for private benefit) please provide this information and explain how Taituarā is not therefore treated as a CCO under s 6(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 for the purposes of the Council group's statutory reporting.

Taituarā does not meet the legal definition of a CCO. It is the individual not the council that is a member of Taituarā. No local authority or group of local authorities own or control 50 percent or more of the voting rights at any meeting of Taituarā, nor does any local authority or group of local authorities have the right to appoint 50 percent or more of the members of our governing body.