

21 May 2022

Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Hi,

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION –RELEASE OF INFORMATION

We refer to your official information request dated 8 April 2022. You requested the following information for the **2020/21 Financial Year** from the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC):

1. Average residential rates

- a. The average **residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average residential costs = (X + Y) / Z**.

Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:

- **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;
- **Y** is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and
- **Z** is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).

Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

2. Average non-residential rates

1. The average **non-residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z**.

Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:

- **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;
- **Y** is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and

- **Z** is the number of rating units except those defined as residential* (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).
- Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example, retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

***Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.**

3. Personnel

1. The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
2. If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.
3. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.
4. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

1. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?
2. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?
3. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?
4. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?
5. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?
6. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?

5. Payments to third parties

1. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.
2. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.
3. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.

QLDC response

1. Average residential rates

- a. The average **residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average residential costs = (X + Y) / Z**.

Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:

- **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to residential rating units;

- **Y** is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to residential rating units (for example charges relating to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc.); and
- **Z** is the number of residential rating units (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for residential, please use the closest definition (such as urban).

Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

2. Average non-residential rates

2. The average **non-residential** costs of rates and other Council charges, where **average non-residential costs = (X + Y) / Z**.

Please ensure that the figures used (X, Y, and Z) are disclosed in the response, where:

- **X** is the total of all rates (general and targeted) charged by the Council to rating units except those defined as residential*;
- **Y** is the total amount of user charges or levies applicable to rating units except those defined as residential* (for example, charges related to metered water, infrastructure contributions, refuse collection, fire protection etc); and
- **Z** is the number of rating units except those defined as residential* (however defined by the Council) within the Council's district or city. If the Council does not have a classification for non-residential, please use the closest definition (such as commercial).
- Please do not include Council charges that are not part of the rates demand (for example, retail sales of Council rubbish bags).

***Please ensure that this definition matches that used to calculate average residential rates so that the respective X values of both requests add up to total rates income for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.**

Please see our response for 1 &2 below:

Average Residential Cost of Rates

Total Rates 2020/21	X Total Inc GST	Y Residential
UAGC	1,846,857	999,602
SPORTS, HALLS & LIBRARIES CHARGE	9,327,304	5,977,827
REFUSE CHARGE	4,182,567	2,281,328
REFUSE CHARGE	3,275,658	2,549,936
AQUATIC CENTRE CHARGE	3,781,084	2,423,280
GENERAL RATE - DISTRICT	940,584	382,245
RECREATION & EVENTS RATE - DISTRICT	9,914,286	3,762,765
GOVERNANCE RATE - DISTRICT	4,560,406	1,385,942
REGULATORY RATE - DISTRICT	7,915,059	2,005,757
ROADING RATE	11,836,016	3,403,844
STORMWATER	3,553,395	2,058,249
TOURISM PROMO - DISTRICT	6,143,602	0
TOTAL WATER	11,043,088	7,246,939
TOTAL SEWER	15,543,109	10,200,042
RECREATION & EVENTS CHG	4,883,156	1,347,991
GOV & REGULATORY CHG	3,118,866	1,532,316
	101,865,036	49,614,284
No. of Residential Properties		15,465
Z Average Residential Cost of Rates		\$3,208

Rating Units

Total number of rating units 2020/21:	28,573
Total number of residential rating units 2020/21:	15,465

Average Non-Residential Cost of Rates

Y Total Non-Residential Rates	\$52,250,753
Z Average Non- Residential Cost of Rates	\$3,986

3. Personnel

- The total number of staff dismissed due to poor performance.
- If applicable, the FTE number of staff employed by council-controlled organisations.

- QLDC: 452
- QAC: 62

- The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$100,000.

- QLDC: 85

- QAC: 10

4. The total number of staff including those employed by council-controlled organisations receiving remuneration in excess of \$200,000.

- QLDC: 6
- QAC: 3

4. Audit and Risk Oversight

1. How many members are on the Council's Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent)?

- 4 as at 30 June 2021. We appointed five members at the beginning of this triennium and John MacDonald resigned in May 2021 (ill health). Councillors Lewers and Shaw were then appointed in July 2021 bringing the total committee to 6.

2. Does the Council have independent members on the Committee?

- Yes

3. Is the Chair of the Committee an independent member?

- No/yes - John MacDonald was the chair and was also a Councillor but resigned May 2021. The reappointed chair to replace him is independent.

4. Does the Council have a lawyer (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?

- No

5. Does the Council have an accountant (with a current practising certificate) on the Committee?

- Yes

6. Does the Council have a code of conduct requiring political neutrality from Council staff?

- Yes

5. Payments to third parties

1. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to any Chamber of Commerce, including GST.

\$25,997.41

2. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), including GST.

\$67,452.04

3. The total payments made by the Council (or any council-controlled organisation) to the New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM), including GST.

\$44,456.45

We trust this response satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Poonam Sethi', with a horizontal line underneath.

Poonam Sethi
Governance and official Information Advisor