

11 February 2026

[REDACTED]
C/- [REDACTED]
Sent via email to [REDACTED]

Request for Official Information LG26-0025 - Council Art Portfolio and Expenditure

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 26 January 2026 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

A full breakdown of your art collection, including, but not limited to:

- 1. The total number of artworks and for each the:**
 - a. Known or estimated value.**
 - b. Status of display (publicly or privately).**
 - c. Year of acquisition.**

- 2. The number of roles that involve working with your art collection, including:**
 - a. Their job title or role.**
 - b. Their annual salary or salary band.**

- 3. How much is allocated in your yearly budget to be spent on art, (not including Creative NZ funding) broken down by:**
 - a. Upkeep or acquisitions of new artwork.**
 - b. The last time this amount was reviewed.**

QLDC RESPONSE

In response to your request, we consulted with the QLDC Strategy and Development Team.

Decision to release information

- 1. The total number of artworks and for each the:**
 - a. Known or estimated value.**
 - b. Status of display (publicly or privately).**

Please find attached a list of [QLDC artworks assets](#).

Please note that the enclosed link will expire on 12 March 2026, 11:42 AM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

- 2. The number of roles that involve working with your art collection, including:**
 - a. Their job title or role.**

There is a single full-time position (1 FTE) responsible for the art collection: the Relationship Manager, Arts and Events. This role, however, is not solely dedicated to managing the Art Portfolio.

- 3. How much is allocated in your yearly budget to be spent on art, (not including Creative NZ funding) broken down by:**
 - a. Upkeep or acquisitions of new artwork.**

An annual allocation of \$50,000 is made to the Lakes District Arts Trust.

- b. The last time this amount was reviewed.**

This amount was last reviewed two years ago as part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) process.

Decision to refuse information

- 1. The total number of artworks and for each the:**
 - c. Year of acquisition.**

QLDC has good reason under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA for refusing the information requested. QLDC consider it is necessary to refuse the requested information on the basis of the following ground:

- Section 17(e) – that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Section 17(e) of the LGOIMA clarifies that a local authority is not required to provide information that does not exist or cannot be found despite reasonable efforts. This ensures that the absence of information is not due to negligence but reflects its genuine non-existence.

Reasonable efforts were made to locate the requested records; however, the specific details cannot be found. The artworks have been acquired since the Trust was established in 2000, and detailed acquisition years are not maintained in the Trust's records.

As a local authority, QLDC remains committed to providing access to information it holds. In this case, however, under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA, the requested information cannot be released as it does not exist or cannot be located despite reasonable efforts.

Decision to withhold information

- 2. The number of roles that involve working with your art collection, including:**
 - b. Their annual salary or salary band.**

QLDC has good reason under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA for withholding part of the information requested. QLDC consider it is necessary to withhold part of the requested information on the basis of the following ground:

- Section 7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA is intended to protect the privacy of individuals by allowing information to be withheld where its release would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information or could cause harm or distress. This provision seeks to balance the public's right to access official information with the need to respect individual privacy and prevent the misuse of personal information.

In this instance, the information is being withheld as it relates to identifiable natural persons. The Privacy Act 2020 upholds individuals' rights to be informed about the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal information. Releasing the requested information could constitute an unreasonable intrusion into the personal affairs of the individual concerned.

In this case, the need to protect the privacy of natural persons outweighs any public interest in the release of the information. Accordingly, the decision to withhold the information is justified and consistent with the provisions of both LGOIMA and the Privacy Act.

Public interest considerations

In assessing whether to withhold information, QLDC carefully evaluates the public interest—particularly whether disclosure would enhance transparency, accountability, or informed public engagement. This assessment includes weighing those benefits against the potential harm that could result from releasing the information.

QLDC acknowledges the public interest in ensuring transparency and accountability among local authority members and officials and supports the principles of good governance. We remain committed to releasing information wherever appropriate. However, in this case, the interest in protecting personal privacy and preventing potential harm or distress to the individuals concerned outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Therefore, QLDC has determined that section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA applies. In this case, no overriding public interest has been identified that would justify its 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 Rebecca.Pitts@qldc.govt.nz (Engagement and Communications Manager).

We trust that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

██████

Democracy Services Team

Corporate Services | Queenstown Lakes District Council

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QLDC Artworks Assets - 2025

	Artist	Artworks	Location	Cost
1.	Kristin O'Sullivan Peren	Papa Kura - Red glow of the Aurora Australis	Queenstown Events Centre	\$84,000
2.	Elizabeth Thomson	The Alpine Club	Queenstown Aquatic Centre	\$30,000
3.	Phillipa Wilson	Like fragrance after the rain	Queenstown Aquatic Centre	15,000
4.	Izzat Design	Remarkable Elements	Queenstown Aquatic Centre	\$10,000
5.	Minhal Al Halabi	William Rees statue	Rees Street, Queenstown	\$9,000
6.	Mark Hill	Water Birds	Bullock Creek, Wānaka	\$27,750
7.	Mark Hill	O Visitors from Afar	Queenstown Airport	\$92,694
8.	Sue Wademan	4 Seasons	Queenstown Events Centre	\$12,667
9.	Springbank Metalwork	Workings	Ann Wadworth and Rachel Hirabayashi Marshall Park	\$45,494
10.	Llew Summers	The Hand that Nurtures	Wānaka Lakefront	\$44,000
11.	Rebecca Rose	Droplets	Bridgeman Green, Wānaka	\$37,1740
12.	Paul Dibble	Fern	Queenstown Gardens	\$95,000
13.	Luke Calder	Queenstown Flood Memorial	Earnslaw Park, Queenstown	\$10,000
14.	Graham Bennett	Reach	Wānaka Lakefront	Donated
15.	Liz Hall	Fleur	Queenstown Gardens	Donated
16.	Unknown artist	Kiwi	Steamer Wharf, Queenstown	Donated
17.	Unknown artist	Moa	Earnslaw Park, Queenstown	Donated
18.	Caroline Robinson	Basket of Dreams	Queenstown Hill	Donated
19.	Virginia King	Vessel	O'Regan Park, Queenstown	\$240,000
20.	Richard Wells	Kuri	Queenstown Gardens	\$70,000
21.	The Good Book	Trevor Askin	Queenstown Gardens	\$35,000
22.	Pounamu Plinth	James York	QLDC Office, Gorge Road, Queenstown	\$10,000
23.	Paul Dibble	View over the Interior	Wānaka Lakefront	Donated