

Corporate Services	75.63	75.63	75.63	75.63	75.63	75.63
Planning and Development	88.66	88.66	88.66	88.66	88.66	88.66
Property and Infrastructure	52.38	52.38	52.38	52.38	52.38	52.38
Strategy and Policy	-	-	15.70	15.70	15.70	15.70
TOTAL FTE	397.03	397.03	397.03	397.03	397.03	397.03
Budget FTE	437.78	437.78	437.78	437.78	437.78	437.78

Headcount						
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 YTD
Assurance, Finance and Risk	52	56	64	63	75	84
Community Services	251	278	322	326	328	343
Corporate Services	81	87	82	90	99	105
Planning and Development	91	102	107	112	120	112
Property and Infrastructure	54	57	62	61	74	80
Strategy and Policy	-	-	18	21	26	24
ALL STAFF	529	580	655	673	722	748

2. The total annual expenditure for each of the five previous financial years, broken down into the following distinct categories:
- Consultants (e.g., strategic, technical, or advisory firms).
 - Legal Services/Lawyers (including external law firms and independent barristers).
 - Contractors/Temporary Staff (e.g., individuals contracted for operational roles or project delivery).

The table below provides QLDC's total annual expenditure (NZD, excluding GST), broken down by consultants, legal services, and contractors/temporary staff, for each of the previous five financial years, as well as the current financial year to date:

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 YTD
Consultants	5,756,979	4,839,548	4,467,711	5,941,734	6,055,239	4,373,307
Legal Services	4,863,446	6,036,508	5,227,139	6,301,920	3,430,216	2,506,797
Contractors/Temporary staff	3,678,108	4,698,419	5,563,836	5,273,283	4,993,315	4,810,918

Please note that the financial information is recorded by financial year (1 July to 30 June) rather than calendar year. The figures above are therefore provided on a financial-year basis and should not be interpreted as a complete calendar-year record.

Additional Context

Key point to note is that staff numbers should be considered in the context of the scale and complexity of the services QLDC provides, including the significant impact of the visitor population on infrastructure, facilities, and service delivery.

QLDC operates in one of New Zealand's most complex growth environments, characterised by:

- one of the fastest-growing districts in the country;
- a globally significant visitor destination;
- substantial infrastructure investment requirements;
- significant affordability pressures; and
- a highly constrained natural environment.

QLDC is effectively managing city-scale growth pressures within a district environment. Key factors include:

- Resident population: 58,700 people.

QLDC does not plan and deliver infrastructure based solely on the resident population. The district must also account for the significant demand generated by visitors:

- Average day population: 88,050 people — representing the average number of people present in the district at any one time.
- Peak day population: 132,075 people — equivalent to the population of Dunedin City and more than double the resident population. Peak population periods are becoming increasingly frequent as Queenstown Lakes continues to attract visitors for recreation, tourism, and events.
- Visitor economy: Destination Queenstown reported 7.7 million cumulative visitor days in the year ending June 2025 (3.9 million domestic and 3.8 million international visitor days). This represents visitor days rather than unique visitors, as individuals staying multiple days are counted multiple times. The domestic/international split was approximately 51 percent domestic and 49 percent international.
- Queenstown Airport: Recorded more than 1 million international passenger movements (arrivals and departures) in 2025.

Other relevant indicators of QLDC's growth and service delivery environment include:

- One of the highest rates of residential building consents issued per 1,000 residents in New Zealand.
- 1,700 residential building consents issued in 2025, with only Auckland and Christchurch exceeding this total.
- Responsibility for the largest land area among the [large metropolitan group](#) councils, covering 8,719 km².
- Significant development capacity enabled through the District Plan and Spatial Plan.
- Recognition as a national leader in affordable housing delivery and innovation, including through partnerships with the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust, the use of perpetual affordable housing models, and early adoption of value-capture approaches.

This broader context is important when considering QLDC's staffing levels, as the organisation is required to support both a growing resident population and a significantly larger transient population that places additional demand on infrastructure, regulatory functions, community services, and operational delivery.

QLDC trusts that the above information satisfactorily answers your request.

Right to review the above decision

You have the right to request an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA. Further information is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with QLDC, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Director Democracy Services).

Proactive release of LGOIMA responses

QLDC proactively publishes responses to requests made under the LGOIMA where the information is considered to be of wider public interest. As such, please be aware that a response to your request may be published on [QLDC's website](#) or otherwise made publicly available. Where this occurs, any personal information will be redacted in accordance with the [Privacy Act 2020](#) and applicable withholding grounds, to ensure individuals' privacy is protected.

Kind regards,



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