

From: [BDC Lgoima](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Official Information Request for Taituara Costs Ref: OIA 037/24
Date: Thursday, 2 May 2024 11:56:52 am
Attachments: [image008.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to our extension email of 30 April, we refer to your official information request dated 28 March 2024 for information related to Taituara costs.

The information you have requested is set out below.

This is a request for official information relating to funds paid to Taituarā – formally known as the NZ Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM).

Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:

1. A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā

List of payments below related to Buller District Council. Our CCO's had no transactions with Taituarā.

Date	Transaction description	Value GST	Recovered
		Exc	
22/06/2023	Order:15450 ALP programme x 3 courses	\$3,750	No
5/07/2023	Order:15658 Online Bylaws refresher	\$250	No
21/07/2023	Order:16132 - LCD Writing Starter Kit 2023	\$290	No
21/07/2023	Order:16130 - LTP Starter Kit 2023	\$290	No
14/08/2023	Order:16468 Course - writing for local govt decision	\$1,450	No
14/08/2023	Order:16730 SectorGood Work Programme Annual Subscri	\$10,820	No
17/07/2023	Order:16732 Annual Membership	\$275	No
17/07/2023	Order:16706 Annual Membership	\$275	No
4/10/2023	Order:17224 Annual Membership	\$275	No
13/10/2023	Order:17663 Wellbeing course	\$325	No
17/10/2023	Order:17707 2023 BERL Update Webinar	\$325	No
17/07/2023	Order:16160 Annual Membership	\$275	No
1/12/2023	Order:18685 Council Workshops and LGOIMA Webinar	\$325	No
11/12/2023	Order:18913 Webinar - The Next Ten Years	\$325	No

2. For each payment:
 - a. the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for* and – as above
 - b. whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same. – as above

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?) **Taituara is owned by its members who pool their resources and efforts to support the local government sector with research, training and advise. This mutual approach to sharing knowledge directly benefits their employers (councils) and thus the ratepayers/community served by the council by lower costs for all and creating efficiencies with the sharing of information and knowledge for all.**
- b. whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones? **Institute of Chartered Accountants, Building Officials Institute, Planning Institute**

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.**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to lgoima@bdc.govt.nz.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Kind regards

Douglas Marshall | Chief Financial Officer (Contractor)
Mobile 027 458 4157 | Email Douglas.Marshall@bdc.govt.nz

Buller District Council | Phone 0800 807 239 | bullerdc.govt.nz
PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

Community Driven | One Team | Future Focused | Integrity | We Care

Email Disclaimer: This correspondence is for the named person's use only. It may contain confidential or legally privileged information or both. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mistransmission. If you receive this correspondence in error, please immediately delete it from your system and notify the sender. You must not disclose, copy or relay any part of this correspondence if you are not the intended recipient. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender expressly, and with authority, states them to be the views of Buller District Council.

