

**From:** BDC Lgoima  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Official Information Request for Council Costs - Ref: OIA 129/24  
**Date:** Friday, 20 December 2024 2:51:16 pm  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
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image006.png  
**Importance:** High

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request for Council Costs dated 22 October and our extension email of 19 November.

The information you have requested is as follows:

1. The remuneration of your council's mayor/chair for 2023/24.  
\$115,735

2. All ratepayer-funded expenses which are not part of the remuneration package for your mayor/chair for 2023/24 including: travel, vehicle, fuel, accommodation, food/beverages, conference fees, phone, membership fees (eg Koru Club). Please list individual items/events separately so it's clear where costs have been incurred.

Accom & Travel	\$	7,600
Conference fees	\$	1,064
Communication	\$	1,400
Mileage	\$	6,843
Total	\$	16,907

3. The remuneration package for your council's chief executive for 2023/24.  
\$265,000

4. The current remuneration package for your council's chief executive if it has changed since June 30, 2024.  
\$265,000 – Has not changed, as per Q.3.

5. All ratepayer funded expenses which are not part of the remuneration package for your council's chief executive for 2023/24 including: travel, vehicle, fuel, accommodation, food/beverages, conference fees, phone, membership fees (eg Koru Club, professional organisations). Please list individual items/events separately so it's clear where costs have been incurred.

Accom & Travel	\$	4,155
Conference fees	\$	3,863
Communication	\$	618
Total	\$	8,636

6. Does your mayor/chair and/or chief executive have a council credit card. If so, what rules apply to its use?  
Neither the Mayor nor CE have a council credit card.

7. What was the number of FTE staff employed by your council at June 30, 2024?  
75

8. What were your council's total staff costs for the year ended June 30, 2024?  
\$7,956,039

9. What percentage did staff costs comprise of your council's operating spending?  
22.12%

10. What was the average cost per FTE employee?  
\$106,081

11. How many staff were employed in each salary band?  
As per table below

2023/2024	less than \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$79,999	\$80,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$119,999	\$120,000 to \$159,999	\$160,000 to \$249,999
Number of Employees	87	19	14	8	6	4

12. Please supply your council's legal expenses for 2023/24 and what the expenses related to.

Infrastructure Services	\$	190,291
Community Facilities	\$	49,795
Customer and Support Services	\$	186,879
Governance & Representation	\$	11,614
Regulatory Services	\$	77,209
TOTAL	\$	515,787

13. How much did the legal expenses comprise of your council's operating expenses (and what was the operating cost)?  
1.43% of total operating expenses.

14. What was the average cost per rateable property of your council's legal bills?  
\$68

15. How much did your council pay for professional public/relations communications advice in 2023/24?  
\$9,775

16. To whom was this advice provided – councillors, staff or both – and in what form (eg written report, workshop)?  
Primarily support to CEO Steve Gibling/Comms team in relation to media enquiries while there was a vacancy in the team.
17. How much has your council paid for professional public relations/communications advice since June 30, 2024?  
No further costs incurred YTD.
18. To whom was this advice provided, and in what form (eg written report, workshop)?  
Internal

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](http://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](mailto: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

Simon Pickford | Chief Executive Officer  
Email [Simon.Pickford@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:Simon.Pickford@bdc.govt.nz)

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Westport office closed 12 pm Tuesday 24 December 2024, reopening 8:30 am Monday 6 January 2025.

Reefton Visitor & Service Centre closes 12 pm Tuesday 24 December 2024, reopening normal hours 9 am Monday 6 January 2025.  
*Reduced hours and limited services available between these dates.*

To notify urgent noise or animal complaints during this time, please call 0800 807 239.

Council wishes Buller residents a happy and safe festive season