

Dear,

I refer to your official information request we received on 28 March 2024 requesting the following:

*“Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:*

1. *A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā*
2. *For each payment:*
  - a. *the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for\* and*
  - b. *whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.*

*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?) and*
- b. *whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?*

*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.”*

### **Release of information**

The information you have requested is as below and attached.

Please provide for the 2023 calendar year:

1. A list of all payments from the Council group (i.e. including any CCOs) to Taituarā
2. For each payment:
  - a. the date, invoice number, and what the payment was for\* and
  - b. whether it was recovered (or deducted from the pay) from the relevant employee enjoying the membership or services related to the same.

*Please find attached an Excel spreadsheet detailing the information for question 2 (a). Question 2 (b) is that Kaikōura District Council do not recover these payments from our employees.*

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?) and

*Kaikōura District Council consider membership to Taituarā and training courses part of the employees professional development and do not deduct these.*

- b. whether the Council does this for any other employment union or professional/networking association. If so, which ones?

*Kaikōura District Council does not have a Union. We are members of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).*

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.*

**Publication of responses to LGOIMA requests**

Please note: our LGOIMA responses may be published on the Kaikōura District Council website a month after they have been responded to, with requesters' personal details withheld. If you have any concerns about this please contact the Official Information team on [officialinformation@kaikoura.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@kaikoura.govt.nz)

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.

Yours sincerely



Will Doughty  
Chief Executive Officer