

From: [Lauren Riddle](#)
To: [Don Badman](#)
Subject: Response to LGOIMA Request - Cost of Head Start
Date: Tuesday, 22 September 2026 11:15:00 a.m.

Kia ora Don

In response to your official information request (see below). I advise that this work was done via the Mayoral Forum, consisting of the :Otago Regional Council; Waitaki District Council; Central Otago District Council; Queenstown Lakes District Council; Gore District Council and the Dunedin City Council.

The Mayoral Forum engaged Morrison Low as consultant. The total cost to the Dunedin City Council was \$31,515.25 (GST excl) which included the Morrison Low cost of \$28,700. The costs were based on population with the DCC's portion being 53.1%.

The Dunedin City Council did not hold any extraordinary meetings, with all discussions occurring in already scheduled Council meeting dates. There were no additional consultation costs as this was undertaken via social media posts and the Mayoral Forum website.

I trust that this now responds to your information request.

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

kā mihi
Lauren

Lauren Riddle
Mana Whakahaere Kairuruku / Governance Support Officer
Governance Group

P 03 477 4000 | **E** lauren.riddle@dcc.govt.nz
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Ōtepoti - Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Don Badman <Don.Badman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2026 11:14 a.m.
To: Don Badman <Don.Badman@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: LGOIMA Request - Cost of Head Start

Hi

Under the LGOIMA, I would like to request the following information about the costs that your council incurred due to the Government's Head Start local government

initiative:

1. What was the total cost to the council for of all activities and work undertaken to develop and finalise its response to the Government's Head Start local government initiative? For clarification purposes, this request is for the total cost or the best estimate of the total cost to the council of the Head Start initiative. Points 2-5 below are for components of this total.
2. What consultants and contractors were engaged to advise or provided information or analysis for the council's response to Head Start and what was the cost of each provider's services? What were the titles of any reports provided by these consultants or contractors?
3. What was the total cost to the council for informing or consulting with local communities and how much was spent on surveys, advertising, informational publications (flyers, pamphlets, etc.), public meetings, websites and other such activities.
4. What was the total cost of any extraordinary or special council meetings or workshops held regarding Head Start or the council's response to it?
5. What other costs were incurred by the council under this initiative and what was the value of those costs?

I am interested in costs from 5 May 2026 until the date that your response was provided to the Government.

Thank you.

Don Badman | Senior Advisor

Labour Leader's Office

Mobile +64 21 814 803

Authorised by Chris Hipkins MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington