

From: Grace Ockwell
To: ["jbmoft@clear.net.nz"](mailto:jbmoft@clear.net.nz)
Subject: LGOIMA request various matters
Date: Thursday, 12 March 2015 04:50:41 p.m.

Dear Mr Moffat

I refer to your letter of 8 January 2015 addressed to the DCC CEO in which you request information on a variety of topics. Your request has been forwarded to me for response.

Your request has been considered under the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and the following response is provided.

I have repeated your questions (**in bold**) and used your numbering to give context to our response.

A Could a council staff member supply POTS with a 'ball park' figure for the costs associated with a schedule 25.3 hearing?

We cannot provide a 'ball-park' figure for all the costs associated with a schedule 25.3 hearing because the level of detail required is not available. We can however advise that for the 2013/14 financial year the cost of planner input into the process averaged \$4,310 for notified resource consent involving a scheduled tree.

B Given the modern communications systems available could some staff member explain why all planners and trees officer (excluding the governance person) have to attend a hearing when they can be reached by cell phone and the receiving phone docked so the question and answer can be heard by all people present at the hearing?

Resource consent hearings are run in accordance with best practice. The practice is essentially the same at all councils. It is a formal process that requires input from a range of people. A hearing has many participants providing evidence for the Hearing Committee. The Hearing Committee decides who needs to attend to support the Hearing Committee's decision making process. Trying to contact every participant who is required to attend and put them on speaker phone is not best practice.

The planner and senior planner need to be able to respond to questions asked at the hearing, which could be difficult if they had not heard the evidence being presented. The planner that makes the assessment needs to attend because their assessment is part of the evidence to be considered by the Hearing Committee or commissioner. The senior planner attends to provide professional planning support to the Hearing Committee. If the Hearing Committee is satisfied a staff member only needs to attend for short period, then that staff member will attend for that short period of time.

The Quality Planning website provides comprehensive guidance on implementing the RMA, which includes the hearing process. See <http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/index.php>.

C Could the council provide an explanation of the situation when a heritage tree is partly growing on a road reserve? Who is responsible for its maintenance and the costs? Is this cost shared between the ratepayer and the council according to the proportion that is growing On the road reserve?

In responding to this question, I have assumed that your request is about "Significant Trees" that are protected under the District Plan (Schedule 25.3).

For protected trees that have a trunk wholly situated on private property, but which

encroaches out onto/over the public road, the private property owner is responsible.

For protected trees that have a trunk wholly situated on the public road but which encroach onto/over private property, the DCC is responsible. Schedule 25.3 (Volume 2) of the District Plan identifies all protected trees and whether they are considered to be on private property or on the public road reserve (see far right column, e.g. see G014 or T1133). Transport department staff are not aware of any protected trees that have a trunk situated directly on (i.e. straddling) a property boundary or for which there is a shared responsibility. If such a situation did exist that situation would need to be looked at individually to see if there are any historic rulings or agreements covering responsibility for the tree.

D Food resilience programme

This programme has a part time employee according to an ODT article. It was reported in the ODT of the establishment of a 'policy analyst - food resilience' at \$26,066 a year. One assumes the office space and other associated overhead costs will increase this figure. Could the council acting general manager Nicola Pinfold give me a brief up date on the development of the 'food resilience' project and what is the council hopes to achieve from the \$26,000 spend?

The Council considered a report on 9 December 2013 entitled "COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT ON "FOOD", and made the following resolutions:

- 1 That the Council notes food as a strategic opportunity for the city and the need to improve our food supply resilience.
- 2 That the Council, with the aim of progressing towards a resilient, sustainable food system for Dunedin, requests a staff report, in time for Annual Plan discussions, outlining resourcing and budget requirements that would enable:
 - a) a more coordinated internal approach to food-related issues and opportunities; and
 - b) engagement with city stakeholders, exploring options and mechanisms to address the challenges, risks and opportunities in this area."

The Dunedin Economic Development Unit (EDU):

Question 1: How many vouchers have been issued in the past five years and what was the total cost?

DCC Response: 36 vouchers were issued in the past five years at a cost of \$18,000.

Question 2: How much has the MSF paid out and to how many businesses? Is this scheme still running?

DCC Response: Between 1999 and 2013 \$1,186,340 was paid out to 199 companies. The scheme is no longer running.

Question 3: Since the 2008-09 spend of \$260,000; what has the last four years spend been? Does this amount include the costs associated with providing office space and the associated costs?

DCC Response: \$462,990 has been spent since 2008/09. This amount does not include the costs associated with providing office space and the associated costs.

Question 4: How many firms/businesses have received funding for up to two-thirds of their projects from the EDU?

DCC response: 199 firms/businesses have received funding for up to two thirds of their projects from EDU.

Question 5: Does Peter Harris still fill the role of EDU manager. Does the DCC

Business Development Advisor, Graham Strong still work for the council; if so, in what role?

DCC Response: Neither Peter Harris nor Graham Strong are employed by the DCC.

Question 6: Is this position still relevant today?

DCC Response: This is not a request for information; rather it is a request for an expression of an opinion.

Question 7: Is business development advisor Sophie Barker still employed in this role?

DCC Response: Sophie Barker is employed as a Business Development Advisor.

Question 8: What is the council expenditure for the 'in-house' staff to work directly with tourism businesses?

DCC Response: \$75,000 (including overheads) was spent during the 2013/14 financial year for in-house staff who worked directly with Tourism Dunedin.

Question 9: Does this programme still operate?

DCC Response: The business internship programme is still running.

Question 10: What is the programme's present cost?

DCC Response: The budget for the 2015/16 year is \$72,000.

Question 11: How many students and companies were involved in the 2013-2014 year programme?

DCC Response: 40 students and 32 companies participated in the programme in the 2013/14 year.

Question 12: What is the current financial support provided by the Government, council and the Otago University (to Upstart)?

DCC Response: Currently the DCC does not give any funds to Upstart

Information to part of question 12 and questions 13 to 21 is not held by the DCC and therefore your request is declined pursuant to section 17(g) of LGOIMA. We suggest you direct your enquiry to Upstart.

Question 13: How many companies are under its present supportive umbrella?

Question 14: How many companies have been helped by Upstart since its beginning at what total cost?

Question 15: Is Mr Evans still the CEO of Upstart?

Question 16: Is Lisa McCarthy filling that role, if not who is?

Question 17: Has this prediction been the case? If so how has it been manifested? Is Mr Walker still with Upstart?

Question 18: What happened to the 'Make money on the YouTube' competition? Is Mr Skipper still with Upstart?

Question 19: Is power House Ventures Ltd still in partnership with UpStart? If so how much money has been raised and how much "further investment" has been bought into the region? To put a fine point on the subject: how many successful businesses have been started as a result of this partnership?

Question 20/21: Why was this change of premises made? What number of staff is presently employed at UpStart and how big is the university cash contribution in the current financial year.

Question 22: Is this survey (referred to in an ODT Article –Chris Morris 20/11/13) still to be undertaken?

DCC Response: Yes

Question 23: What is the expected cost of the survey?

DCC Response: As the expected cost of the survey has not been established, we cannot provide you with this information as we do not hold it. Technically our response to this question is a refusal to supply information pursuant to section 17(g) of LGOIMA.

Question 24: What is the purpose of the survey?

DCC Response: The purpose of the survey is to receive feedback from businesses on DCC performance.

Question 25: How much is "Grow Dunedin" costing each of the involved parties? Or, put another way; how much is each party financially contributing including the Economic Development Unit?

DCC Response: The DCC contributes \$40, 000 to "Grow Dunedin". Please contact the other "Grow Dunedin" partners for information as to the amount they contribute to "Grow Dunedin."

Is this related to UpStart?

DCC Response: "Grow Dunedin" is unrelated to Upstart.

Questions 26: What is 'Kickstart'? A kissing 'rellie' to UpStart?

DCC Response: Kickstart was a previous DCC project, which was unrelated to Upstart.

What is its cost and what is it meant to achieve and how many staff are involved in running it?

DCC Response: As the Kickstart project is no longer operative, the DCC does not hold this information.

As we have withheld certain information, you have the right pursuant to section 27(3) of LGOIMA to have our decision to withhold information reviewed by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Ockwell

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