

6 May 2015

Mr R V Kenny



Dear Mr Kenny,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 May 2015 addressed to the Water and Waste Manager, Dr Laura McElhone which has been forwarded to me for response.

You have requested again the reasons for the Council deciding to increase the cost of the black rubbish bags.

I can only repeat the information I provided to you in my previous letter, namely, that Council (the elected members) set the price for black rubbish bags at the Annual Plan hearings and decide whether or not an increase in the cost of black plastic rubbish bags is justified. In setting the price for the black rubbish bags, Council may take into account a wide range of different factors, not just the actual escalation in operating costs. I can provide no further information.

Yours sincerely,



Grace Ockwell
Governance Support Officer

88 York Place,
Dunedin 9016
1st May, 2015,

Dr. E. McElhone,
Water & Waste Manager,
D.C.C.,
Dunedin.

Re: Rubbish Bags Cost Increase.

Dear Dr. McElhone,

Recently, I wrote to MS. Grace Ockwell asking for the reasons why the cost of rubbish bags was increased. MS. Ockwell has told me that the increase was justified. However, justified for what reasons? MS. Ockwell doesn't seem to know. I presume that you will have them on record and what the reasons are is what I need to know. Please advise me of them.

Attached are a copy of a letter I wrote to MS. Ockwell & copies of two letters I have received from her.

Yours truly,
R. V. Kenty
ROY KENTY.

23 April 2015

Mr R V Kenny
88 York Place
Dunedin 9016

Dear Mr Kenny,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 April 2015.

You have requested the 'actual reasons for the Council deciding to increase the cost of the black rubbish bags when the economists tell us that annual inflation is running at almost zero'.

I repeat the information I provided to you in my previous letter, namely, that Council decided that an increase in the cost of black plastic rubbish bags was justified. I can provide no further information.

I have also forwarded your letter to Dr McElhone for noting.

Yours sincerely,



Grace Ockwell

88 York Place, PM (03) 4778633
Dunedin 9016
21st April 2015

MS Grace Ockwell,
Governance Support Officer,
D.C.C.,
Dunedin

Re: 'Black Plastic Rubbish Bags'

Dear MS Ockwell,

With reference to your letter dated 3rd March 2015 replying on behalf of Dr. Laura McElhone to letters that I had written to her dated the 15th Feb. + the 15th March concerning the above.

I am surprised that the answers to my questions needed to be considered under the provisions of the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987. However, of more interest to me is, if you would elaborate the actual reasons for the Council deciding to increase the cost of the black plastic rubbish bags when the economists tell us that annual inflation is running at almost zero?

I trust that Dr. McElhone will advise elected Councillors of the gravity of the problems associated with the use of black plastic bags for collecting organic household rubbish during the Annual Plan Hearings next month.

I would appreciate a prompt reply

Yours truly,
ROY KENNY
R. V. Kenny

3 March 2015

Roy Kenny
88 York Place
Dunedin 9016

Dear Mr Kenny

Black bags for rubbish disposal

I refer to your letters dated 15 February and 1 March 2015 addressed to the Group Manager of Water and Waste, Dr Laura McElhone, which have been referred to me for response.

I refer particularly to the two questions asked in the last paragraph of your letter of 15 February. In your letter you wrote "The present system for rubbish disposal is inefficient. Time + time again contractors return to clean up streets the mess left from broken bags. The increasing cost for doing this being included in their contract but paid by ratepayers." You then asked the following two questions:

Question 1

Is this the reason why the charge for the 'Black Bags' was recently increased?

Question 2

If not so, how could the increase be justified in these times of almost zero inflation?

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

Response to Questions 1 and 2.

The prices for the black rubbish bags were recently increased as part of the Long Term Plan process. Council decided that this increase was justified.

Yours sincerely



Grace Ockwell

Governance Support Officer