

31st May, 2016

Elizabeth Kerr

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Kerr,

Follow up letter: Official information request for details regarding contracts with Firebrand Holdings Ltd.

On May 27th you received a partial reply to your official information request dated April 18, 2016. Some of the information was still to come and this has now arrived. Please see below for the answers to your remaining questions in [blue text](#).

- a) Has any other DCC controlled entity engaged the services of the company Firebrand in the period 1 Jan 2015 to 18 April 2016; if so have any of those contracts awarded for services Not followed an open (public) tendering process; and if so why not ?

[Below are the responses I have received from each of the entities that are more than 50% owned by Dunedin City Council.](#)

Dunedin City Holdings Ltd – Has not engaged Firebrand.

Dunedin Venues Management Ltd – The reply states: "We engage Firebrand on a project by project basis. This process does not involve a formal tendering process as each project in this timeframe was within the threshold for not entering into an open tendering process. Firebrand is not a preferred supplier and other suppliers are used depending on the project involved."

Dunedin (New Zealand) Masters Games Trust – Has not engaged Firebrand.

Dunedin Venues Ltd – Has not engaged Firebrand.

City Forests Ltd – Has not engaged Firebrand.

Dunedin City Treasury Ltd – Has not engaged Firebrand.

Aurora Energy Ltd – Has not engaged Firebrand.

Otago Power Ltd – Not trading. No response.

Delta Utility Services Ltd – Has not engaged Firebrand.

Lakes Contract Services Ltd – Not trading. No response.

Taieri Gorge Railway Ltd – Has not engaged Firebrand.

5. The Digital Community Trust (DCT) and Digital Office Ltd (The Digital Office), from the date of the inception of The Digital Office:

- a) How many contracts for supply have been awarded to Firebrand since the inception of The Digital Office ?

[One contract for web development, and fees to improve or maintain services.](#)

- b) How many of these contracts (see item 1.) were awarded via an open tendering process ?

[None.](#)

- c) How many of these contracts (see item 1.) were awarded not using an open tendering process ?

One.

- d) In regards to item 3., in each case, why wasn't an open tendering process utilised ?

The Digital Office was a separate entity and there was no requirement to follow the DCC process. The contract was awarded following a selection process initiated by partner organisations (nationwide entities) and an independent selection process. The Digital Office was audited annually and the process to select vendors was agreed with those partner organisations that funded the project.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me by return email.

Yours sincerely

Arlene Goss.