

4 May 2017

Melissa Nightingale  
Reporter  
New Zealand Herald

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Dear Melissa

Official Information Act Enquiry relating to Street Lights in Dunedin

I refer to your request dated 18 April 2017 for information on Street Lights in Dunedin.

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

1. How much does it cost to replace a bulb in each street light (broken down by the cost of the bulb and the cost of the labour to replace it)?  
Unfortunately we are unable to provide a breakdown on the cost of the replacement of one bulb as our contractor charges us by monthly payments which included the costs of replacing any bulbs and the maintenance of the lights. Therefore your request is declined pursuant to Section 17 (e) of LGOIMA as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.
  - a) How often on average would one bulb last?  
On average a bulb would last 16,000 hours which equates to approximately four years running time. They can last longer but the efficiency drops off as a result.
  - b) How often does Council have to replace a bulb?
    - i. From 1/6/2013 to 31/5/2016, there were an average of 2,022 bulbs replaced each year as opposed to an average of 4,419 bulbs per year from 1/6/2011 to 31/5/2013 (these figures exclude new bulbs as part of a new light).
2. How often is a new street light put up or an old street light replaced with a new one?  
From 1/6/2013 until 31/5/2016 Council averaged 173 new lights per year with an average of 322 new lights per year from 1/6/2011 to 31/5/2013. Most of these new lights will predominantly be new subdivisions with some new lighting as a result of developments, for example, the Caversham motorway redevelopment and a few 'ad hoc' new light requests.
3. How many Street Lights are there in Dunedin and throughout the whole city.  
There are 15,185 streetlights in the network including local roads and State Highways.
4. Has the cost of running and maintaining the street lights in Dunedin decreased or increased over the last 10 years?  
The move from bulb replacement to reactive maintenance saves money in the short term however due to the age of the street light network, the maintenance costs are increasing.

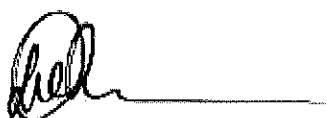
5. What is the total running and maintenance costs for each year from 2007 to the present?

Yearly breakdown:

2009/2010	\$298,149.97 NB(this is a nine month period as the contract started in September 2009)
2010/2011	\$471,808.89
2011/2012	\$543,109.24
2012/2013	\$504,846.55
2013/2014	\$596,005.44
2014/2015	\$273,781.05
2015/2016	\$248,184.49

6. Have there been any measures introduced over the past 10 years to reduce costs?
- a) And if so, what are these measures and when were they introduced?
- There is a shift to reactive maintenance in anticipation of the renewal to LED lighting. There is a plan for a citywide renewal to LED's, which will save on energy and maintenance costs.
- b) How have the costs changed since these measures were introduced, if they were?
- There has been a short term reduction in maintenance costs from reactive maintenance rather than the bulk bulb replacement.
7. Are there any further plans for the future to decrease costs?
- There are no current plans to decrease costs as the priority is the LED Rollout which will reduce energy and maintenance costs. Maintenance costs are dependent on uncontrollable factors such as damage from accidents, environment and vandalism.
8. Is there any particular month of the year that on average proves to be the most expensive for street light running and maintenance costs?
- Some months may cost more to run the lights due to reduced daylight hours in winter, however this is offset by summer maintenance such as pole painting in addition to any uncontrollable factors mentioned above which may increase costs in a given month.
9. Anything else you can think to add would be appreciated.
- Heritage light pole painting; shear base tightening; all accident damage on poles and bollards, vandalism damage, graffiti removal, patrols, responding to customer requests and a small amount of new light installations are also included in the street light maintenance contract.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Adamson  
Governance Support Officer