

3 December 2018

Shani Bennik
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
shani@taxpayers.org.nz

Dear Shani

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) request for information on legal payments

I am writing in response to your follow up questions raised from your official information request dated 28 September 2018 regarding Legal Payments.

The parties involved in the defamation case stated in the letter dated 26 October 2018 were Mayor Dave Cull and Cr Lee Vandervis. In 2016, Cr Lee Vandervis filed defamation proceedings against the Mayor, for calling him a liar at a council meeting in December 2015. In July 2017, Cr Vandervis settled for \$50,000, with no apology or admission of liability.

Below is a link to an article on the Otago Daily Times website which may be of interest:
<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/50000-payout-vandervis>

Yours faithfully



Rebecca Murray
Governance Support Officer

1 November 2018

Shani Bennik
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union
shani@taxpayers.org.nz

Dear Shani

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) request for information on legal payments

I am writing a response to your official information request dated 28 September 2018 regarding Legal Payments.

I refer to your request for information as follows:

- 1 The total cost of legal advice and services in the three years to 20 June 2018 in matter relating to defamation.

One defamation case was filed during the three-year period. There was no cost to Council as all legal costs were covered by the Dunedin City Council insurers.

- 2 The total cost of any and all payments related to settlements of defamation matters (where these have all, or in part been paid for using public money) over the same time period.

One defamation case was filed during the three-year period. The amount of \$50,000 was paid by the Dunedin City Council, being the excess payable on our professional indemnity insurance policy.

- 3 If the answer to either or both (1) and (2) is more than zero, please tell us how much relates to matters concerning defamation (actual or alleged) by or toward elected officials.

The defamation proceeding was filed against the mayor. As disclosed above, the total cost to Council was \$50,000.

Yours faithfully



Rebecca Murray
Governance Support Officer