

31 January 2018

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Local Government Official information and Meeting Request (LGOIMA) for information about council's legal costs

I am writing in response to your official information request of 11 October 2017. Please accept my apology for the delay in replying to your request. Set out below are responses to your information request.

External Legal Spend

The Council's total external legal spend in the following years is as follows:

- a) Financial year ended 30 June 2016 - \$1,063,695
- b) Financial year ended 30 June 2017 - \$1,618,464

The increase in expenditure is from various one-off items of expenditure. This includes re-tendering infrastructure contracts, the Council's Proposed Local Alcohol Policy and the District Plan Review.

The firms who were paid more than \$10,000 (and listed in alphabetical order) in the financial years ending are shown in Table 1:

Firms paid more than \$10,000	Financial year ended 30 June 2016 (\$)	Financial year ended 30 June 2017 (\$)
Anderson Lloyd	847,814	1,224,910
Gallaway Cook Allan	48,947	130,814
Meredith Connell	0	38,300
Rice & Co	65,922	29,187
Ross Dowling Marquet Griffin	1,200	16,588
Simpson Grierson	3,376	33,995
Webb Farry	57,074	53,576
Less than \$10,000	39,362	91,094
Total spend	\$1,063,695	\$1,618,464

Table 1: Expenditure with external legal firms

Internal Legal Resources

The Dunedin City Council had 1.8 FTE solicitors employed as at 30 June 2016 and as at 30 June 2017 it employed 2.6 FTE solicitors. All solicitors hold practising certificates. There are no non-legal staff in the Council's legal team.

Total Internal Legal Spend

We have decided to withhold your request for the direct total spend on internal legal services salaries under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect the privacy of the employees of this Council. Disclosure of this information would allow identification of the salaries paid to its employees.

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.

The approved budget for indirect costs are \$78,132 for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 and are \$66,300 for the financial year ended 30 June 2017. Indirect costs do not include corporate overheads.

The role of Chief Legal Officer is a tier 3 role at the Dunedin City Council.

Organisational Figures

The number of rateable units as at 30 June 2016 was 55,282 and for the same date in 2017 it was 55,238.

The total number of employees was 647.82 FTE as at 30 June 2016 and 677.09 FTE as at 30 June 2017.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Bodeker
Team Leader Civic