

## Wendy Collard

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**From:** Jenny Lapham  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 January 2024 03:42 p.m.  
**To:** 'oliver@taxpayers.org.nz'  
**Subject:** FW: Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987  
ChristmasLGOIMA request.

Kia Ora Oliver

I refer to your e-mail of 12 December, below, requesting information regarding Christmas related expenditure. Our responses are provided below.

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### End-of-Year Bonuses:

- Total amount paid in end-of-year bonuses to the CEO this Christmas.
- Total amount paid in bonuses to staff employed by your organization this Christmas.
- Please also provide the same for Christmas 2022.

There were no bonus's paid to the CEO or Council staff in either year.

### Presents for Staff:

- Total expenditure on presents for staff including but not limited to 'secret Santa' etc.
- Please include this cost for last year also.

There were no presents provided to staff in either year.

### Christmas Parade:

- Total expenditure breakdown on any Christmas parade hosted or funded by the Council this year. This should also include road closure impact assessments where possible.

The Council provided a grant to the Santa Parade Trust of \$70,400 who manage the Santa Parade. This year, there was additional costs of \$25,000 associated with making the construction site, in George Street, safe for the Santa Parade to traverse.

- Please include a cost breakdown for any Christmas parade last year.

The Council provides a \$70,400 grant to the Santa Parade Trust.

### Christmas Trees and lights:

- Number of Christmas trees purchased and erected, and the cost of these purchases for this year.
- Please also include the cost for any Christmas lights for tree and any lights for buildings for this year.
- Please also include the cost of both for last year, too.
- Please highlight if the council had any left over from last year.

2023 Christmas Trees and decorations \$36,385.16

2022 Christmas Trees and decorations \$17,838.65

The Council has five sites in public spaces where Christmas decorations and/or trees are provided. It does not purchase new trees or decorations each year, however in 2023 Wall Street Mall and Te Puna o Whakaehu (the new swimming pool in Mosgiel) needed new trees, and decorations were needed for Toitū and the Library. In 2022 a new tree was purchased for the Octagon.

### **Hiring Santa:**

- Breakdown of costs associated with hiring a Santa, if applicable.
- Please also provide this information for last year, too.

In 2022 the Council paid \$4,500 (excl. GST) for the actors playing the role of Santa at Toitu and in 2023 \$5,000 (excl. GST) was paid to the actors.

### **Christmas Market:**

- Breakdown of costs associated with running/hosting/sponsoring a Christmas market, if applicable.
- Please provide this information for last year, too.

The Council does not run a Christmas Market.

### **Christmas Party Supplies:**

- Please breakdown the amount spent on the following for the years 2022 and 2023:
  - - Wrapping paper
    - Santa hats
    - Alcohol for parties
    - Party hats
    - Christmas crackers
    - Christmas cards
    - Christmas decorations

There was no expenditure on Christmas supplies

### **Christmas Parties:**

- Total expenditure breakdown on Council Christmas parties. Please also include in the breakdown any travel arrangement costs.
- Please include this for last year, also.

The Council did not hold a Christmas Party.

### **Office Closure:**

- Duration of office closure during the Christmas period for the council generally.

The Council was closed the three days between Christmas and New Year.

- Please specify how many managers and senior executive staff are taking more hours/days out of office than is blanket across the council for the Christmas period.

I understand that you have withdrawn this request.

- Does the Christmas office closure also affect contactors paid by the council? If not, how much are they being paid over the Christmas break in an hourly rate?

Any on call contractors would be paid the rate as specified in their contracts.

## **Fines:**

- Does the council have any plans to increase fines for parking offences or any other offences during the Christmas period?
  - - If so, which fines are increasing, why and what revenue is expected to be raised?

The Council did not increase any fines during the Christmas period.

Kā mihi

**Jennifer Lapham**

**Mana Whakahaere Kairuruku/Governance Support Officer**  
**Governance Group**

P 03 477 4000 | E [Jenny.Lapham@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Jenny.Lapham@dcc.govt.nz)

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Ōtepoti - Dunedin City Council

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)