

16 August 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-29580

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2024-168

I refer to your request for information dated Wednesday, 24 July 2024 which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on Wednesday, 24 July 2024. You have requested the following:

“This request asks for information on the 2024/34 Long Term Plan.

- A) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the General Rates information in the 2024/34 Long Term Plan?*
- B) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2024/34 General Rate allocation to ratepayers?*
- C) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 General Rates?*
- D) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 General Rates?*
- E) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the Transport Rates information in the draft 2024/34 Long Term Plan?*
- F) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2024/34 Transport Rate allocation to ratepayers?*
- G) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 Transport Rates?*
- H) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 Transport Rates?*

I) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of the changes (contributions and withdrawals) from the Transport Reserve over the past three years including the source for the contributions and the target for the withdrawals?

J) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of any reports or presentations to GWRC councillors at Long Term Plan 2024/34 workshops?

If the requested information is held in electronic form, it is preferred that the information is provided in its complete and original electronic format. It is also preferred that information is not removed from documents even if this information may be assessed as being out of scope for this information request.”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

Thank you for your enquiry regarding your general and transport rates in our 2024/34 Long Term Plan (LTP). We have prepared the following information to best answer your ten questions identified above.

A) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the General Rates information in the 2024/34 Long Term Plan?

Greater Wellington Regional Council is organised into four key Activity Groups:

- Environment and Flood Protection
- Metlink Public Transport
- Regional Strategy and Partnerships
- Water Supply

Environment and Flood Protection, and Regional Strategy and Partnerships are the only two groups to utilise the general rates funding method to fund their activities. This is partially offset by activities from the Investment Management group.

The following table is high level summary of the total General Rate portion required for each activity group per year. It also shows the amount of offset to the General rate provided from investment activities.

Activity Groups	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000	‘\$000
Environment	92,464	107,086	118,397	120,987	128,036	132,100	134,987	137,977	140,576	143,470
Regional Strategy and Partnerships	15,653	17,113	17,654	17,838	18,453	18,824	18,994	19,448	19,616	19,945
Investment Management	-14,560	-14,411	-8,205	-11,195	-8,294	-10,298	-12,099	-16,934	-12,972	-13,264
Grand Total	93,557	109,788	127,846	127,630	138,195	140,626	141,882	140,491	147,220	150,151

This information is publicly available on the Greater Wellington website: <https://ltp.gw.govt.nz/>

Please refer to pages 59-61 (Environment and Flood Protection) for the Activity Level Prospective Funding Impact Statement (FIS) and pages 104-105 (Regional Strategy and Partnerships) and page 128 (Investments).

Please refer to **Attachment 1 - Funding impact statements (FIS) for activities funded by General Rates** for a further detailed breakdown of the calculations used to provide the General Rates information in the 2024-34 LTP. Please note that the attached data only reflects data for the general rate, whereas the LTP includes all rates, therefore there will be a variance between the two documents provided.

For further understanding of how we are fund our activities, please refer to Greater Wellington's Revenue and Financing Policy 2024 <https://ltp.gw.govt.nz/supporting-strategies-and-policies/> (Pages 8-24 for Environment and Flood Protection and pages 27-37 for Regional Strategy and Partnerships).

B) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2024/34 General Rate allocation to ratepayers?

Please refer to **attachment 2 – Rates Model 2024/25**.

For each territorial authority (TA), equalised capital values (EQV) are obtained from Quotable Value, and these are then used to pro-rata the total general rates required from each TA. TAs are then responsible for allocating and collecting the total rates from the rate payers within their boundaries.

The allocation for each TAs is updated annually through annual plan.

	CV	ECV 2024/25	General Rate	Rates sought
	\$	\$	\$	Cents per \$
By TA				
Wellington city	117,326,906,550	99,003,634,434	42,450,780	0.03618
Hutt city	39,707,176,000	38,393,867,363	16,462,523	0.04146
Upper Hutt city	16,856,900,350	15,516,301,703	6,653,080	0.03947
Porirua city	19,409,983,800	18,992,714,263	8,143,696	0.04196
Kāpiti Coast district	23,142,666,100	23,073,590,904	9,893,495	0.04275
Masterton district	10,529,984,800	10,956,106,252	4,697,759	0.04461
Carterton district	4,626,940,700	4,589,109,075	1,967,718	0.04253
South Wairarapa district	7,891,083,050	7,645,492,004	3,278,234	0.04154
Tararua district	20,442,000	21,568,275	9,248	0.04524
Region wide	239,512,083,350	218,192,384,273	93,556,534	0.03906

C) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 General Rates?

Refer to the **Attachment 1 - Funding impact statements (FIS) for activities funded by General Rates** for the detailed breakdown of cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 General Rates.

D) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 General Rates?

Refer to the **Attachment 1 - Funding impact statements (FIS) for activities funded by General Rates** for the detailed breakdown of revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 General Rates.

E) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed calculations that were used to provide the Transport Rates information in the draft 2024/34 Long Term Plan?

As outlined in the 2024 Revenue and Financing Policy (<https://ltp.gw.govt.nz/supporting-strategies-and-policies/>), the revenue amounts to cover the operational expenditure, is split between 'Fees and User charges', Government Subsidies and Targeted rates. Transport rates are applied after considering other sources of revenue.

Please refer to **Attachment 3 – Metlink FIS** for more detail, and **Attachment 2 – Rates model 2024-25**.

This information is available in the 2024-34 LTP (pages 76-77), in the form of the Activity Level Prospective Funding Impact Statement (FIS).

Please note that in **Attachment 3**, the projected cost information relating to the bus, rail and ferry contracts in the Wellington Region has been withheld in accordance with sections 7(2)(b)(ii) and 7(2)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the grounds that releasing the breakdown of the cost estimates would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the operators when negotiating similar contracts, and Greater Wellington's ability to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations for the upcoming contracts.

We have considered whether the public interest in the requested information outweighs Greater Wellington's need to withhold certain aspects of the requested information. As a result, we do not consider that the public interest outweighs Greater Wellington's reason for withholding parts of the document under the grounds identified above.

F) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the calculations of the 2024/34 Transport Rate allocation to ratepayers?

The allocation of rates are calculated on ECV, with differentials based on land use, location and provision of service. TAs are responsible for allocating and collecting the total rates from the rate payers within their boundaries.

More detail regarding the allocation to ratepayers can be seen in the table below or found in the rates model (**Attachment 2** – Rates Model 2024/25).

Please also refer to page 240 for a Summary of rates and Levies in the Greater Wellington Long Term Plan 2024/34 <https://ltp.gw.govt.nz/>.

PROACTIVE RELEASE

TA full name	Category group	CV (\$)	ECV (\$)	Differential	ECV multiplied	Public transport rate	Cents/\$
Wellington city	Wellington CBD	13,368,376,300	11,280,599,473	7.00	78,964,196,310	40,053,106	0.29961
Wellington city	Business	6,480,398,350	5,468,336,361	1.40	7,655,670,906	3,883,195	0.05992
Wellington city	Residential	96,040,762,550	81,041,807,253	1.00	81,041,807,253	41,106,936	0.04280
Wellington city	Rural	1,437,369,350	1,212,891,347	0.25	303,222,837	153,804	0.01070
Hutt city	Business	6,742,241,000	6,519,242,433	1.40	9,126,939,407	4,629,469	0.06866
Hutt city	Residential	32,406,254,500	31,334,422,700	1.00	31,334,422,700	15,893,798	0.04905
Hutt city	Rural	558,680,500	540,202,230	0.25	135,050,557	68,502	0.01226
Upper Hutt city	Business	2,074,242,950	1,909,282,178	1.40	2,672,995,049	1,355,827	0.06536
Upper Hutt city	Residential	12,920,826,400	11,893,256,560	1.00	11,893,256,560	6,032,631	0.04669
Upper Hutt city	Rural	1,861,831,000	1,713,762,964	0.25	428,440,741	217,319	0.01167
Porirua city	Business	1,752,175,500	1,714,507,799	1.40	2,400,310,919	1,217,513	0.06949
Porirua city	Residential	16,374,013,500	16,022,010,268	1.00	16,022,010,268	8,126,864	0.04963
Porirua city	Rural	1,283,794,800	1,256,196,196	0.25	314,049,049	159,295	0.01241
Kāpiti Coast district	Business	2,118,502,900	2,112,179,687	1.40	2,957,051,562	1,499,909	0.07080
Kāpiti Coast district	Residential	15,678,065,400	15,631,270,211	1.00	15,631,270,211	7,928,668	0.05057
Kāpiti Coast district	Residential	2,036,169,400	2,030,091,933	0.50	1,015,045,966	514,863	0.02529
Kāpiti Coast district	Rural	3,309,928,400	3,300,049,074	0.25	825,012,268	418,472	0.01264
Masterton district	Business	954,405,000	993,027,320	1.00	993,027,320	503,694	0.05278
Masterton district	Residential	4,684,053,500	4,873,605,120	0.50	2,436,802,560	1,236,022	0.02639
Masterton district	Rural	4,891,526,300	5,089,473,812	0.25	1,272,368,453	645,385	0.01319
Carterton district	Business	198,752,500	197,127,424	1.00	197,127,424	99,989	0.05031
Carterton district	Residential	1,604,807,000	1,591,685,488	0.50	795,842,744	403,676	0.02515
Carterton district	Rural	2,823,381,200	2,800,296,163	0.25	700,074,041	355,099	0.01258
South Wairarapa district	Business	402,740,000	390,205,683	1.00	390,205,683	197,925	0.04914
South Wairarapa district	Residential	2,562,801,500	2,483,040,446	0.50	1,241,520,223	629,738	0.02457
South Wairarapa district	Rural	4,925,541,550	4,772,245,875	0.25	1,193,061,469	605,158	0.01229
Tararua district	Rural	20,442,000	21,568,275	0.00	0	0	0.00000
Region wide		239,512,083,350	218,192,384,273		271,940,782,481	137,936,858	

G) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed costs for the cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 Transport Rates?

Refer to the **Attachment 3 - Metlink FIS**, for the detailed breakdown of cost amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 Transport Rates.

H) Can the GWRC please provide a complete copy of the detailed revenue for the revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 Transport Rates?

Refer to the **Attachment 3 - Metlink FIS** for the detailed breakdown of revenue amounts used in the calculation of the 2024/34 Transport Rates.

Revenue is sourced from 'Government grants and subsidies', the 'regional transport rate' and 'transport fares'.

I) Can the GWRC please provide a copy of the changes (contributions and withdrawals) from the Transport Reserve over the past three years including the source for the contributions and the target for the withdrawals?

A Reserves Report is included in all Greater Wellington Annual Reports. The report lists all Greater Wellington reserves, the Opening balances, and any deposits and withdrawals.

The last three years of changes (contributions and withdrawals) from the Public Transport and Transport Planning Reserves can be found in the past three Annual Reports (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/annual-reports/>).

Year	Purpose of the fund	Opening Balance \$'000	Deposits \$'000	Withdrawals \$'000	Closing balance \$'000	Reference
2020/21	Any funding surplus or deficit relating to the provision of public transport services is used only on subsequent public transport expenditure	11,274	1,747	(500)	12,521	Annual Report 2020/21 Page 104
2021/22		12,521	201	(7,026)	5,696	Annual Report 2021/22 Page 98
2022/23		5,695	68	(1,949)	3,814	Annual Report 2022/23 Page 100

J) Can the GWRC please provide a copy any reports or presentations to GWRC councillors at Long Term Plan 2024/34 workshops?

LTP Workshop Reports & Presentations

The copies of reports and presentations have been included.

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Act.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Jacob Boyes

Kaiwhakahaere Matua, Pūtea me ngā Tūraru | Group Manager Finance and Risk (acting)