



19 April 2018

Peter Newport
Managing Editor
Southern Community Media Trust

Sent via email to peter@newportmedia.nz

Dear Peter

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION

We refer to your official information request dated 16 April 2018 in which you have asked for an updated table detailing QLDC's expenditure on external consultants.

QLDC has a policy of aggregating requests from the same source on a common subject for assessing the administrative burden of responding. We consider the following two questions of your other current request (also dated 16 April) as being similar enough in nature to warrant aggregating them with this request:

- *"Total value of consultancy work commissioned by QLDC over the past 10 and 20 years? Social media comments have put this at \$20 million over 10 years... is this figure correct?"*
- *"Who are the top five consultants used by the council? Value of contracts? How much has been spent with Rationale consultants (Arrowtown) in total?"*

Your request as currently framed will be difficult to meet without substantial collation and research. To provide you with an updated table of external consultant expenditure covering the period 2008/09 to 2017/18 YTD will take approximately 16 hours of staff time (there is a significant amount of work associated with the retrieval and analysis of this information). At this stage we have not estimated how long it would take to calculate the total amount spent on external consultants over the past 20 years.

On the basis of the above, we may have to refuse your request under section 17(f) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA). Please let us know by 23 April whether you are prepared to refine your request, and if so, how. If you require assistance refining your request please contact us at informationrequest@qldc.govt.nz.

Please note that:

- If you do amend or clarify your request, this will be considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response – see section 13(7) of the LGOIMA.
- QLDC has a policy of providing the first hour of time spent on a request for free; beyond that we typically seek to fix a charge of \$38/half-hour or part thereof to enable us to respond to a request.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Taylor', written over a horizontal line.

Jesse Taylor
Governance Advisor