

5 October 2018

Tabitha Lorck  
New Zealand Taxpayers Union Inc.

By email to: [tabitha@taxpayers.org.nz](mailto:tabitha@taxpayers.org.nz)

Dear Tabitha

Thank you for your email dated 17 August 2018 requesting details of Wellington City Council's spend on domestic and international travel for the 2017/2018 financial year. I note that on 11 September 2018 the Council extended the decision date on this request to 5 October 2018.

### Council Controlled Organisations

In your request you asked that we provide the requested information for our council 'group and not just parent'. To action this aspect of your request we have asked the following Council Controlled Organisations to provide the information you have requested to you directly:

- Basin Reserve Trust
- Karori Sanctuary Trust
- Wellington Museums Trust
- Wellington Water Ltd
- Wellington Cable Car Ltd
- Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) (including Venues Wellington)
- Wellington Zoo Trust.

Wellington Zoo Trust has requested that their information be provided to you along with that of the Council itself. Accordingly please find a spreadsheet with all of the relevant Wellington Zoo Trust information **attached**. The Trust has included all travel from its operational budget, including invitational travel for the component it paid for. This also covers any travel for recruitment purposes, staff travel and training and any travel for invited consultants.

### Wellington City Council

Your specific questions are set out below followed by Wellington City Council's responses to those questions.

#### Domestic travel

Question	Response
1. the total spend on all domestic flights by your Council in the 2017/2018 financial year.	\$145,736 (GST inclusive)
2. the total number of domestic flights flown in the same period.	973

**Notes:**

- In order for our response to your first question to be comparable to our response to your second question, we have provided flights flown during the 2017/2018 financial year (irrespective of when they were paid for) as opposed to flights paid for in the 2017/2018 year.
- Return flights have been counted as two domestic flights in the number of flights provided.
- Flights booked via our travel booking partner attract a booking fee. This booking fee is excluded from the total spend provided above.

**International travel**

Question	Response
3. the total spend on all international flights in the 2017/2018 financial year;	\$99,488 (GST inclusive)

**Notes:**

- As above we have provided the costs of flights *flown* during the 2017/2018 financial year, irrespective of when they were paid for.
- Flights booked via our travel booking partner attract a booking fee. This booking fee is excluded from the total spend provided above.

Question
4. a list of each international itinerary flown in the same period, including the: 1. destination (s); 2. reason for travel; 3. travel class flown;
5. costs for each international itinerary, please also provide details of all associated: 1. entertainment expenses; 2. food; 3. accommodation; 4. conference costs; 5. transport and transfers; 6. (including any expense reimbursement);
6. For each international itinerary, please tell us if a domestic partner also travelled with the official.

In response to questions 4(1) and (3) please find **attached** a spreadsheet showing all international trips flown during the 2017/2018 financial year. We note that this dataset may include flights or upgrades that have subsequently been reimbursed by the passenger or our international partners.

As discussed by phone on 27 September 2018, unfortunately the information requested in questions 4(2), 5 and 6 is not held divided by international itinerary in the way requested. Extraction, collation and provision of this information for each international trip flown in the 2017/2018 financial year would take significant officer time across many parts of the Council. Accordingly questions 4(2), 5 and 6 of your request are declined under section 17(f) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) on the grounds of substantive collation and research.

Having already extended our response to this request, we have considered whether charging for your request would help. Our view is that collating the information requested would substantially

and unreasonably impact the core business of a number of business units across Council, and accordingly setting a charge would not help in this case.

Should you require more information about a specific international trip detailed on the spreadsheet provided, please contact [assurance@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:assurance@wcc.govt.nz). The assurance team will work with the applicable business unit to collate the reason for travel, the costs associated with the trip and whether a domestic partner was present.

If you disagree with my decision you have the right, under section 27(3) of LGOIMA, to ask the Ombudsman to review and investigate my decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

I trust the information we have been able to provide is of assistance to you. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SPearsonCoats". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Pearson-Coats  
**Team Leader Complaint & Information Assurance**  
**Wellington City Council**  
[assurance@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:assurance@wcc.govt.nz)