

30 July 2024

OIA IRO-645

Chris McCashin

fyi-request-26073-a916e520@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chris,

Official information request regarding cost of leaks in Wellington

Thank you for your official information request dated 12 March 2024 to Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act). The Council transferred your request in full under [Section 12](#) of the Act to Wellington Water on 19 March 2024.

The answers to your questions have been provided in the Appendix on the next page. I apologise for the time it has taken to respond to you.

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.

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 at <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/about-us/official-requests/official-information-act-responses/> with your personal information removed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to email us at official.information@wellingtonwater.co.nz

Nāku noa, nā,



Lisa Strickland
Head of Customer Experience
Customer Operations Group

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APPENDIX

1. *It was recently reported that the cost of leaks in Wellington has increased from \$1,500 to \$4,932 per leak since 2021. Are you able to provide a selection of invoices for the cost of these leaks and for them to include what the costs relate to. Ultimately I want invoices that outline the itemized costs to repair these leaks and compare these against an itemized invoice from 2021.*

The information to respond to this question is withheld under section 7 (2)(b)(ii) – as making available the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

2. *Where have these costs increases come from? By way of an example relating to a couple of leaks I have been past that Wellington Water have been working on are as follows: 100 metres of cones from the point of the leak down three different streets (suburban quiet street), 9 workers on site - 2 were working, six were standing around watching and one was sitting, temporary traffic lights and a traffic management vehicle. There was another example whereby there was a traffic management crew on a job in a dead end street?! Ultimately how much of the costs are the own doing of Wellington City Council - Living wage, over regulation for traffic management, cone hireage etc etc etc*
3. *I am assuming Wellington City Council are asking these questions? Alternatively the overburden of compliance you put on these people have enabled them to game the system with nine workers on site?*

In answer to questions two and question three, Wellington Water cannot respond in regards to Wellington City Council's remuneration policy and regulatory functions. Traffic Management is planned and delivered in accordance with the NZTA – Waka Kotahi's [Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management](#). This document states what can and cannot be done on the road and it helps plan traffic management to provide a safe working space for our people and the public.

4. *So please provide an itemized cost for these leaks across the city.*

The information to respond to this question is withheld under section 7(2)(b)(ii) – as making available the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

In accordance with section 7(1) of the Act, we do not consider the withholding of information under section 7(2)(a) of the Act is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.