

22 January 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-34927

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe Arne,

Request for information 2025-007

I refer to your request for information dated 4 November 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 4 November 2024. You have requested the following:

“In August 2024, you had a media release acknowledging that Wellington City residential ratepayers had been overcharged by an average of \$30 for four financial years, and due to your error:

Do you if a decision to address this error has been made yet? If a decision has been made, could you please send me the link to the relevant council papers on your website.”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

We sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to your request. Upon reviewing the situation, we found that while a response had been prepared, a communication error occurred between our contact centre and the rates team. Unfortunately, this was not identified until you followed up.

We deeply regret this oversight and any inconvenience it may have caused. Please find our response below, and we hope it meets your expectations.

In August 2023, Greater Wellington announced the error they had found during a rates modelling exercise. The error showed the Wellington City Council had been incorrectly collecting the General Rates component of the Greater Wellington Rates. This was explained in the media release you have referenced.

Council was presented with options on 26 October 2023, in which they chose to pursue a parliamentary process as this option would have the least financial impact to ratepayers. The order paper (agenda number 7 – report 23.485) and the confirmed minutes are available on our website at <https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/events-and-meetings/council-344/>.

As an action from that report on the issue, the Council Chair, Councillor Daran Ponter, has reached out to the three MPs in the Wellington City area to seek support for sponsoring a Bill through a parliamentary process to correct the General Rate differential issue.

We can confirm now that the response has been positive, and an MP has given us their support to sponsor a bill, if and when required. The discussions with the MPs are still on-going and no timeframes for next steps have yet been developed. The issue of being able to justify Parliamentary time on this issue has been discussed.

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 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Alison Trustrum-Rainey

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