

16 February 2024

LGOIMA No. 8140011858  
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Hunter K  
By Email: [fyi-request-22542-52d94737@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22542-52d94737@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Hunter

## Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987

### Producer Statement Authorship

Thank you for your initial information request dated 23 April 2023, regarding the Producer Statement Authorship (PSA) structural engineering register, and your follow up request dated 8 September 2023. The specific details of your follow up request are below:

*I would like to follow up on Item 4 & 5, and 6 that have not been answered.*

*4 & 5) This has not been answered. If this information is withheld, you need to specify that you are withholding this information and under which provision. If this is under Sections 9(2)(b) and 9(2)(i), I note that there is 'public interest test' that needs to be met.*

*(6) Revealing the total cost for this activity is again in the interest of the public, which demands accountability and transparency.*

*I am therefore again requesting for the information requested, particularly the total-cost of this activity over the past years for the year ending 2023.*

We have reviewed our decision regarding questions 4-6 of your initial information request. Upon further evaluation, we have resolved to release further information set out below.

Decisions pertaining to the release of this information have been made by **Denise Whelan, Manager Building Consents Capability**.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in getting this response to you and thank you for your patience while we have worked on this response.

In response to your request:

#### **4. how the current external consultant who assess applicants were selected including any tender documents;**

The engagement of the consultant was approved in 2017 by a Manager who no longer works for Auckland Council. The consultant has confirmed that they were initially engaged to undertake assessment of applications by the previous Manager due to an Auckland Council staff member taking leave. This arrangement has continued since that time. There are no tender documents in relation to this engagement.

**5. who is the current consultant reviewing “high risk” applicants for the PSA register, and what are their credentials;**

This information is withheld under section 7(f)(ii) of the of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), because withholding of this information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment.

In reaching this conclusion we have carefully considered whether the need to withhold this information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make this information available, in particular the need for transparency. In the present circumstances, we do not consider that these public interest considerations outweigh the need to maintain effective conduct through protection from improper pressure and harassment.

**6. how much has Auckland Council paid the current external structural engineering consultant for “high risk” candidate qualification assessments for the 5 years ending 31 March 2023.**

Auckland Council’s consultant has not been paid to perform these assessments.

We will provide a copy of this letter to the Ombudsman’s office to provide them with an update on Auckland Council’s response to your complaint.

If you have any further queries please contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140011858.

Ngā mihi



Jenny Hua  
Senior Privacy & Official Information Business Partner  
**Governance Services**