

From: Official Information  
Sent: Monday, 19 December 2016 5:15 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: LGOIMA 16/0415 response - [REDACTED] - gifts spending

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, received on 28 October 2016. You requested the following information, under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA):

*"the Council's spending on gifts (including but not limited to staff gifts and corporate gifts) for the five financial years from 2010 to 2016."*

#### Extension of timeframe

On 25 November 2016, we extended the timeframe on our response to you by an additional ten working days.

#### Decision

On 9 December 2016, we notified you of our decision to release the requested information to you.

#### Release of information

In the past, Council staff have received gifts on occasions such as leaving the Council, bereavements and as part of the Council's rewards scheme. In September 2014, however, the Council instituted a new policy that stated gifts for special occasions could be purchased by staff, but generally would not be contributed to from Council funds. In addition, in November 2015, the Council moved away from financial-based rewards for staff to a new recognition policy that permitted "gifts of time" of up to 2 hours to be awarded to staff to recognise outstanding contributions. These policies have led to a significant decrease in Council spending on gifts for staff.

Regarding corporate gifts, the amount spent each year depends to a certain extent on how many high profile visitors come to the city. The Council also often buys items in bulk in order to get better value per item. In the earlier years in the table below, stock was allowed to be diminished, before stock was replenished and upgraded in the last two years. In addition, the amount spent on corporate gifts decreased following the earthquake sequence, due to the organisational focus on disaster recovery, as well as limited storage space.

The table below contains the amount spent by the Council on gifts for the six financial years from 2010/11 to 2015/16, including corporate gifts:

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Gifts to staff	\$16,292	\$28,485	\$31,548	\$16,037	\$3,831	\$3,127
Corporate gifts	\$8,163	\$15,988	\$10,744	\$8,521	\$21,350	\$20,623

You have the right to request the Ombudsman to review this decision. Complaints can be sent by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), by fax to (04) 471 2254, or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

#### Publication of responses to LGOIMA requests

Please note: our LGOIMA responses may be published on the Christchurch City Council website a month after they have been responded to, with requesters' personal details withheld. If you have any concerns about this please contact the Official Information team on [officialinformation@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:officialinformation@ccc.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely,

**Anna Sinclair**

Public Information Adviser

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