

OIR: 2324/923

24 May 2024



Tēnā koe ,

Request for Information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) (the LGOIMA)

Thank you for your correspondence via our website form on 10 May 2024 requesting the following information:

Wondering what tangible, measurable benefits councillor Sophie Handford's international trips are going to bring for Kapiti Ratepayers? ... so I put it to those who approved the travel...what on earth is she doing, and how on earth is this serving the ratepayers of the Kapiti Coast?

Councillors' salaries and any travel associated with discharging their roles as an elected member of the Kāpiti Coast District Council are ratepayer funded as prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002. Councillor Handford's recent international travel did not relate to her role as an elected member of this Council and was not funded by the ratepayers of the Kāpiti Coast District. The trip therefore was also not approved by this Council aside from the Mayor approving a leave of absence for Councillor Handford to be away from attending meetings during that time.

Part of the travel was funded by the Solar and Storage Event that Councillor Handford attended in Brisbane and the rest by the New Homeland Foundation who hosted the Asia Pacific Social Innovation Summit that she attended in Taiwan.

Ngā mihi,



Mark de Haast
Group Manager Corporate Services
Te Kaihautū Ratonga Tōpū

Please note that any information provided in response to your request may be published on the Council website, with your personal details removed.