

5 April 2023

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-977

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2023-063

I refer to your request for information dated 8 March 2023, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 8 March 2023. You have requested the following:

“will look forward to the written official response on the heating system- how it physically works i.e. does the function of the diesel unit allow for heating/cooling as per a petrol engine in a car, or is there some cost involved to operators other than the electronic maintenance or cooling fluids. Either way, what are the policies or arrangements or settings for cooling and heating of passenger carriages, who applies and oversees the policies, who manages the cooling and heating during each journey, how are the passenger fluctuations, e.g. the early morning passenger needs, accommodated?”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

Your request relates to the heating system on the Wairarapa line. These carriages are owned by Greater Wellington and operated and maintained by Transdev.

We have separated our answers to your response below.

How does the heating system work:

Air in the rail carriage is heated using electrical heaters in the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit which is located underneath the carriage. The air is blown through ducting, to the carriage.

All carriages have the same heating capacity, although some carriages have more under-the-seat electrical heaters and others are heated predominantly by the HVAC unit. This electrical energy is produced using diesel powered generators in the Generator carriage.

This heating is controlled with a four-position temperature switch and a three-position fan speed switch. These settings on the HVAC controller represent approximately 1-degree increments (18 – 21 degrees).

Who manages the cooling and heating during each journey:

Transdev's train crew turn on the HVAC early as part of their train preparation prior to passengers boarding. This is managed by the Train Manager. The functionality of the air conditioning unit during each journey is controlled by the Train Manager.

How are the passenger needs accommodated:

The passenger needs of the HVAC unit are accommodated by the Train Manager.

What are the policies or arrangements or settings for heating and cooling of passenger carriages:

Our contract with Transdev states the HVAC should be fully operational. It does not include any other specific policies or arrangements. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Management Act 1987 (the Act) as this is not held by Greater Wellington Regional Council, or any other local authority, department or Minister of the Crown or organisation. The contract with Transdev can be found here:

<https://www.metlink.org.nz/about/legal/contracts-for-rail-and-buses/>

The HVAC units have been upgraded recently and there are no further plans beyond prescribed maintenance for any more upgrades to take place.

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 possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Samantha Gain

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | General Manager Metlink