

10 July 2024

File Ref: OIAPR-1274-23063-28123

[REDACTED]  
C/- Salient  
Student Union Building  
PO Box 600  
Wellington

By email: [REDACTED]@salient.org.nz

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2024-119**

I refer to your request for information dated 11 June 2024, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 11 June 2024. You have requested the following:

*"I wish to make a LGOIMA request on the regional council's plans for graduate roles and internships for the summer of 2024/25, and whether any funding difficulties will affect whether these roles end up being advertised for.*

*Please provide the following information:*

- Over the past five years, how many internships has GWRC had each summer?*
- Over the past five years, how many graduate roles has GWRC advertised each year?*
- In what fields were these roles?*

*Please answer the following questions:*

- Has GWRC made any decisions as to whether similar roles or similar numbers of graduate roles and internships will be advertised to start over the 2024/25 summer period?*
- Will funding difficulties affect whether these job advertisements go ahead?*
- Has GWRC staff discussed this at all? If so, please provide any internal communications (emails, texts, meeting minutes ect) related to how many graduate and internship roles*

*will be advertised this summer, and any internal communications related to whether funding difficulties will have an impact on the number advertised”.*

**Greater Wellington’s response follows:**

Greater Wellington does not have a formal internship programme, instead we advertise for graduates or interns as determined by the needs of the relevant business unit.

- *Over the past five years, how many internships has GWRC had each summer?*
- *Over the past five years, how many graduate roles has GWRC advertised each year?*
- *In what fields were these roles?*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of graduate or intern roles advertised</b>	<b>Fields</b>
2019	2	Flood protection
	1	Corporate Services
2020	2	Flood protection
	1	Parks
2021	4	Flood protection
	1	ICT
	2	Parks
2022	6	Flood protection
	2	Parks
	2	Biodiversity
	3	Metlink (corporate type roles)
2023	3	Flood protection
	3	Environmental
	2	Parks
	1	Corporate Services
2024	6	Biodiversity

- *Has GWRC made any decisions as to whether similar roles or similar numbers of graduate roles and internships will be advertised to start over the 2024/25 summer period?*

At the time of writing this response, no decisions have been made. Business groups at Greater Wellington have until 26 July 2024 to provide a business case for any interns they are looking to engage, for consideration and approval. These positions are funded by the respective business groups, so they need to take this into consideration, along with the need for an intern(s) each year.

However, we have intern positions in the Parks and Flood Protection fields that have pre-approval to advertise every year. These will continue to go ahead for the upcoming summer period.

- *Will funding difficulties affect whether these job advertisements go ahead?*

Parks and Flood Protection have pre-approval to proceed with advertising intern positions. The other business groups have until 26 July 2024 to provide their business cases, so no decisions have been made, including whether funding constraints will have an impact on the intern positions. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 on the basis that the information requested is not held by Greater Wellington and we have no reason for believing that the information is either –

- (i) Held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation; or
  - (ii) Connected more closely with the functions of another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.
- *Has GWRC staff discussed this at all? If so, please provide any internal communications (emails, texts, meeting minutes ect) related to how many graduate and internship roles will be advertised this summer, and any internal communications related to whether funding difficulties will have an impact on the number advertised.*

We are aware that some business groups within Greater Wellington have had informal discussions relating to bringing a graduate or intern on board. While some business groups will look to request an intern or graduate through the process outlined above, some groups have opted not to progress their informal discussions on the basis that they couldn't meet external programme deadlines or provide resource for a successful experience for the intern(s). These discussions have no specifically centred on funding constraints.

Your request for internal communications is therefore refused under section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

When refusing a request under section 17(e) of the Act we are required to consider consulting the requestor before making our decision. In this instance, we believe that consulting you would not change our decision.

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



**Donna Hickey**

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Whakamāhorahora | Group Manager People & Customer

PROACTIVE RELEASE