

Reference Number: 2024/1124

15 August 2024

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for email of 29 July 2024 requesting under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), information relating to the Rebel Business School. Please see outlined below a response to each part of your request.

***I am extremely annoyed that you recently gave \$25,000 to the Rebel Business School, and at the same time raised my annual rates to an exorbitant level.***

***Media reports state:***

***" Their 10-day unaccredited course has optional attendance for "graduates" and has consistently failed to meet delivery and attendance targets."***

***If this is correct, please explain:***

***Why did you choose to give this money to this organisation?***

Firstly, it would be helpful to provide some context when responding to this LGOIMA request.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is a nationwide partnership between Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) that focuses on connecting young people with suitable training, employment and mentoring opportunities, and helping remove any barriers to employment or training while providing a platform for job creation. Horowhenua District Council (the Council) participates in this programme and receives external funding from the Ministry to be able to operate this programme.

Rebel Business School offers services and programmes that are in line with our commitment to building the skillset of our rangatahi and sparking inspiration in pursuing and developing their own ideas.

For the purposes of clarity, the money paid to Rebel Business School was not funded through rates collection but through a funding agreement with the Ministry to run the MTFJ programme.

***Do you feel supporting an organisation that allows participants to come along or stay away, if they want to study is conducive to the investment of yours?***

Like many of the programmes, courses, and events that the Council facilitates, they are voluntary. We try our best to maintain engagement throughout those activities to maximise the benefit to not only the participant, but also the money invested in that activity.

Two courses were funded in 2023. In June, in partnership with Kāpiti Coast District Council a 10-Day Flagship Programme was delivered. 15 out of the 21 registered participants completed the programme and received a certificate.

***What benefits have come to the Council, from the \$25,000 investment you made in Rebel Business School?***

The Council is meeting the requirements and obligations of our funding agreement with the Ministry and LGNZ by providing courses that encourage building the skillset of our rangatahi, and sparking inspiration in pursuing and developing their own ideas. Therefore, the benefit is that not only are we supporting a group of young people in our community, but we are also benefiting, by meeting our contractual requirements.

***Who made the decision to fund this project to an unaccredited school?***

Council Officers are responsible for how MTFJ funding is spent as it is an operational matter.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

If you would like to discuss this decision or any of the information provided as part of this request, please contact Brent Harvey (Group Manager Community Experience and Services) on [brenth@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:brenth@horowhenua.govt.nz), or [LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMAOfficer@horowhenua.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi



Ashley Huria  
**Executive Sponsor**