



20 May 2024

File Ref: 5-IM-2



### Local Government Official Information Request

Thank you for your request for information from Council. All requests to the Council for information are required to be considered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). More information about how the Council handles LGOIMA requests can be found in the Council's LGOIMA Request Policy, which is available on the Council's website.

Your request for information was received on 8 May 2024 and related to refreshments costs incurred during the long-term plan during our public hearings. Clarification was sought from you as to whether this was for refreshments during the public consultation process or the one-day meeting for verbal submissions, to which you confirmed it was for the latter. Our response is below:

1. How much has your council budgeted for refreshments/food for elected members during your public hearings into your 2024-34 long term plan?

**Response:**

Rangitikei District Council does not have a separate budget set aside for public hearing catering, this is included in the overall catering budget for council. For the public hearings, we allotted \$22pp for catering.

2. If your council also feeds staff members meals during this time, how many staff members approximately?

**Response:**

For this meeting there were a total of 25 catered for, which included staff and 12 elected members, this number is higher than usual due to the number of staff being required to answer questions on the Long-Term Plan submissions.

3. A copy of the menu/list of what foods will be/has been provided, and on which day.

**Response:**

As the hearings were only held on one day this is what was provided: lamb filled pitas, homemade sausage rolls, vegetarian salad and an assortment of sweet danishes.

4. An explanation of how kai choices were made (e.g. if health was taken into consideration and if councillors had a say in what made it onto the menu) and if the company preparing the food is owned by people who live in your district or city.

*Making this place home.*

**Response:**

We source our catering from local suppliers in the district. There was no menu options to choose from, all items provided offered fresh and healthy choices. Vegetarian/Gluten free alternatives are available when requested.

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

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/about/contact-us/official-information> with your personal information removed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Lisa Daniels 0800 422 522.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Gordon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carol Gordon

**Group Manager Democracy & Planning**