

27 February 2023

File Ref: OIAP-7-26861

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request for information 2022-234**

I refer to your request for information dated 5 December 2022, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 5 December 2022. You have requested the following:

*“Could I please get the following information regarding bus drivers for 2022*

- 1. The number of vacancies broken down by month at the first, or last day of the month (whatever is easiest to report on, as long as it's consistent)*
- 2. The number of FTE bus drivers broken down by month at the first, or last day of the month (whatever is easiest to report on, as long as it's consistent)*
- 3. The hourly wage broken down by month at the first, or last day of the month (whatever is easiest to report on, as long as it's consistent)*
- 4. The number of job applications received by bus companies broken down by month if GW is supplied with this information”*

On 13 January 2023, we spoke on the phone to discuss your request, noting that as parts 1 and 2 are currently worded, we would not be able to provide you with useful information. During our phone call we agreed to provide you with the following information:

1. The number of drivers required for each operator
2. The number of drivers short each operator is, noting that some may be part-time driver roles and full-time driver roles and the date at which this is reported on will be different for each operator.

We also agreed to a new timeframe to respond to your request. As discussed, we will provide you with the information before the end of February 2023.

**Greater Wellington's response follows:**

***Context***

Bus drivers are employed by bus operators, and the operators are not required in their Partnering Agreements with Greater Wellington to report on the number of drivers they have. Some of our operators provide consistent updates on driver numbers, but this varies according to operator. However, we have requested that our operators report on driver numbers (including any shortfalls) on a more consistent basis.

Therefore, we include all of the monthly data provided to us by our bus operators in 2022 that responds to your request—noting that there are timeframes where data was not provided, and operators who do not provide us with this information as regularly as others.

***The number of bus drivers required for each operator***

'Bus drivers required' is defined as 'the minimum number of drivers to deliver services on a weekday, combined with additional drivers necessary to cover sickness, holidays, shift patterns, etc.' Please refer to **Appendix 1** for the table containing this information for 2022.

***The bus driver shortage per operator***

'Bus driver shortage' is defined as the difference between current bus driver staffing levels (including both part-time and full-time driver roles) and 'bus drivers required,' as defined above. Please refer to **Appendix 1** for the table containing this information for 2022. The dates that these numbers are reported on vary depending on the operator.

***The hourly wage broken down by month at the first, or last day of the month (whatever is easiest to report on, as long as it's consistent)***

As employers, bus operators hold the information about bus driver wages, and are not required to report to Greater Wellington on actual month-to-month wages paid to their employees.

Greater Wellington does not hold the average actual hourly wage paid by bus operators to their drivers month to month in 2022. Therefore, I am refusing part 4 of your request under section 17(g)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) as the information is not held by Greater Wellington, or another local authority.

However, Greater Wellington understands that the hourly *minimum* wage of bus drivers working for Tranzurban, Mana and Uzabus for the 2022 year was \$27, for every month in the calendar year.

Therefore, the hourly wage of bus drivers employed by these operators would be at least \$27 per hour for 2022.

NZ Bus has a complex allowances process that accounts for length of service and a number of other factors when determining hourly rate. We understand that would provide an average driver *minimum* hourly rate of slightly over \$27 for 2022, for bus drivers employed by NZ Bus.

***The number of job applications received by bus companies broken down by month if GW is supplied with this information***

Bus driver recruitment is conducted by each bus operator. Under the Partnering Agreement, bus operators are not required to report to Greater Wellington on driver recruitment or on the number of job applications received for advertised positions.

Greater Wellington does not hold the number of job applications received by bus operators in 2022. Therefore, I am refusing part 4 of your request under section 17(g)(i) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) as the information is not held by Greater Wellington, or another local authority.

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 Act.

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 Metlink | General Manager Metlink

## APPENDIX 1

### Bus Drivers Required\* vs. Driver Shortfall—2022, 'as at' dates specified below

Operator	Category	31-Jan	24-Feb	31-Mar	14-Apr	12-May	20-Jun	5-Aug	17-Aug	16-Sep	18-Oct	15-Nov	15-Dec
Tranzurban	Required	303	303	No data	303	303	303	303	303	303	303	303	303
	Driver Shortfall	-35	-54	No data	-53	-51	-42	-38	-40	-41	-39	-43	-46
Operator	Category	31-Jan	17-Feb	22-Mar	27-Apr	16-May	20-Jun	18-Jul	31-Aug	30-Sep	31-Oct	30-Nov	31-Dec
NZ Bus	Required	No data	230	230	230	230	230	230	230	230	230	249	230
	Driver Shortfall	No data	-18	-17	-19	-23	-35	-42	-58	-60	-57	-71	-66
Operator	Category	31-Jan	28-Feb	31-Mar	30-Apr	31-May	30-Jun	31-Jul	31-Aug	30-Sep	31-Oct	30-Nov	31-Dec
Uzabus	Required	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	24	24	27	27	27
	Driver Shortfall	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operator	Category	31-Jan	28-Feb	31-Mar	30-Apr	31-May	30-Jun	31-Jul	31-Aug	30-Sep	31-Oct	30-Nov	31-Dec
Mana	Required	No data	32	32	32	40	40	58	58	58	58	58	58
	Driver Shortfall	No data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*'Bus drivers required' is defined as 'the minimum number of drivers to deliver services on a weekday, combined with additional drivers necessary to cover sickness, holidays, shift patterns, etc.'