

**From:** [BUS: Assurance](#)  
**To:** [Information Requests](#)  
**Cc:** [BUS: Assurance](#)  
**Subject:** RE: LGOIMA: WCC – Tory Whanau office decor  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 December 2022 2:51:55 pm

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Kia ora,

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 1 December. You requested the following information:

- *How much has been spent decorating Mayor Whanau's office since her election? Please include artwork, ornaments, plants, and any service costs involved in altering the appearance of the space.*
- *Were any of Mayor Whanau's "interior design mates" involved in decorating her office? If so, what were they paid (in monetary terms or goods)?*
- *Is any future decorating planned for Mayor Whanau's office? If so, what is planned? Please include any intention to purchase artwork, ornaments, and plants.*

Wellington City Council has refused your request for information. The information you have requested has not been provided under section 17(g) of the Act because no re-decorating has taken place in Mayor Whanau's office since the election and there are no current plans to do so.

### **Right of review**

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Thank you again for your request, if you have any question please feel free to contact me.

Ngā mihi  
Claudia

### **Claudia Holgate**

Senior Advisor | Official Information Team  
Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council  
E [claudia.holgate@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:claudia.holgate@wcc.govt.nz) | W [wellington.govt.nz](http://wellington.govt.nz)

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**From:** Information Requests <requests@taxpayers.org.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 December 2022 3:14 pm  
**To:** BUS: Assurance <Assurance@wcc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** LGOIMA: WCC – Tory Whanau office decor

Kia ora,

This is a request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and it relates to this article in Stuff <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/130123221/wellingtons-mayorelect-tory-whanau-undecided-on-deputy> . Particularly the following quote:

*While Foster had cleared it of his possessions, Whanau was already making plans to enlist a “couple of her interior designer mates” to ensure her new surroundings reflected more of her personality.*

*“I think some of these ornaments aren’t really to my style, if I’m honest,” said Whanau, exercising her diplomatic skills. “I mean it’s lovely and modern [in here], but I’d like to see more te Ao Māori-focused arts in here, maybe a couple more plants.”*

We would like to know:

- How much has been spent decorating Mayor Whanau’s office since her election? Please include artwork, ornaments, plants, and any service costs involved in altering the appearance of the space.
- Were any of Mayor Whanau’s “interior design mates” involved in decorating her office? If so, what were they paid (in monetary terms or goods)?
- Is any future decorating planned for Mayor Whanau’s office? If so, what is planned? Please include any intention to purchase artwork, ornaments, and plants.

We do not wish to cause unnecessary expense or burden on your agency. If clarification of any of our requests is needed, please call or email. Likewise, if a request proves unnecessarily burdensome in form and we are likely to be able to adjust it to be more specific or better suited to your information systems without losing the benefit of what is sought, please also get in touch. If there is likely to be a delay in being able to assemble or provide some of the information requested, please provide the rest of the information as it becomes available.

To avoid unnecessary printing and postage costs, we ask that you send a confirmation of receipt, the response and any other correspondence related to this request to [requests@taxpayer.org.nz](mailto:requests@taxpayer.org.nz).

Please include the following reference in the subject line: **LGOIMA**: WCC – Tory Whanau office decor

Kind regards,

**New Zealand Taxpayers’ Union Inc.** | Main +64 4 282 0300 | Level 4, 117 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 10518, The Terrace, Wellington 6143 | [www.taxpayers.org.nz](http://www.taxpayers.org.nz)

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