

27 September 2023

██████████
Sent via email to ██████████

Dear ██████,

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION – PARTIAL RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information held by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). On 3 September 2023 you requested the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), by asking the following questions:

- What are the terms of the lease between QLDC and the golf club?
- Does the golf club pay QLDC? If so, what's the annual sum?

QLDC response

- *What are the terms of the lease between QLDC and the Queenstown golf club (situated on the Kelvin Peninsula)?*

We have decided to withhold the terms of the lease. We provide our rationale later in this response.

- *Does the golf club pay QLDC? If so, what's the annual sum?*

Yes, the golf club does pay QLDC, however we have decided to withhold the annual sum. We provide our rationale below.

Decision to withhold remaining information requested

We have good grounds under the LGOIMA for withholding some of the information requested. We consider it is necessary to withhold certain information on the basis of the following grounds:

- s 7(2)((b)(ii) – to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Releasing the terms of the lease and revealing the annual sum paid to QLDC would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the golf club. We have therefore had to withhold this information.

Public interest considerations

We consider the interests of the public when making decisions to withhold requested information, including considerations in favour of release, whether the disclosure of the information would

promote those considerations, and whether those considerations outweighed the need to withhold the information.

Promoting the accountability and transparency of local authority members and officials is in the public interest, as is the general public interest in “good government”. Where possible, we have favoured the release of information.

However, we do not believe that these public interest considerations mean we should release the information withheld. Protecting the commercial position of QLDC partners is important because it enables a competitive market in this space. Our need to be transparent, does not outweigh the importance of protecting our commercial partners from prejudice to their commercial position.

We conclude that the important section 7 withholding interests identified (e.g. commercial sensitivity), which relate to a subset of the information within the scope of your request, are not outweighed by a countervailing public interest requiring release.

Right to review the above decision

Note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about this process is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact Naell.Crosby-Roe@qldc.govt.nz (Governance & Stakeholder Services Manager).

We trust this response satisfactorily answers your request.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line and a flourish.

██████████
Senior Official Information Advisor