

2017 Survey of New Zealand councils

Independent hearings commissioner remuneration review

Survey participants

Data was received from the following 18 councils:

Auckland Council	Kapiti Coast District Council
Carterton District Council	Porirua City Council
Christchurch City Council	Queenstown Lakes District Council
Environment Bay of Plenty	Tararua District Council
Environment Canterbury	Taupo District Council
Greater Wellington Regional Council	Waimate District Council
Hastings District Council	Waipa District Council
Hauraki District Council	Wellington City Council
Hutt City Council	Whangarei District Council

Cabinet Fees Framework, Group 2: Statutory Tribunals and Authorities

Level	Fees range - chair		Fees range - members	
	Daily	Hourly	Daily	Hourly
1	\$640 - \$1,000	\$80-\$125	\$410 - \$638	\$51-\$80
2	\$580 - \$855	\$73-\$107	\$380 - \$527	\$48-\$66
3	\$530 - \$720	\$66-\$90	\$340 - \$470	\$43-\$59
4	\$450 - \$560	\$56-\$70	\$290 - \$360	\$36-\$45
5	\$340 - \$500	\$43-\$63	\$270 - \$325	\$34-\$41

Strategic Pay considered that the independent hearings commissioner role fits most appropriately in level 3, and would occasionally fit the level 2 criteria.

Survey responses

Council	Chair fees	Member fees	Comments
1	-	-	Haven't used an independent commissioner for many years
2	-	-	Haven't used an independent commissioner for over two years
3	-	-	Negotiate rate on a case by case basis
4	\$150	-	Use single commissioner for hearings
5	\$150	\$150	
6	\$170	\$150	
7	\$170	\$150	
8	\$250	\$200 Independent commissioner \$110 Iwi commissioner \$150 Former elected member	
9	\$90-350	\$90 - \$350	Negotiated rate in 2014 with individual commissioners (35 in pool)
10	\$150-300	\$150 - \$300	Plus disbursements. Negotiate with each commissioner at time of appointment
11	\$165-200	\$165 - \$200	No set hourly rate, commissioners charge their own rate.
12	\$170-320	\$150 - \$225	Some commissioners charge a day rate instead of an hourly rate (chairs \$1388-\$2750, members \$800 - \$2100)
13	Ave \$180-220	Ave \$180 - \$220	Highest is \$350+GST and lowest is \$90+GST – most are around \$180-\$220+GST
14	\$180-400	\$180-400	Depending on skills and experience
15	\$200-250	\$120-180	No set rate - rate offered is based on experience and skills
16	\$200	\$160	Rates do vary based on experience but these are the average.
17	\$200	\$200	No set rate but generally commissioners charge around \$200 per hour
18	\$234 average	\$219 average	

Key:

	Auckland Council
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Comparison between 2012 and 2017

Hourly rates paid to chairpersons

Hourly rates paid to chairpersons	Minimum		Maximum		Average	
	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017
With set rates	\$150	\$150	\$180	\$250	\$165	\$178
Without set rates	\$80	\$90	\$350	\$400	-	-
Ranges	\$200-250	\$165-200	\$80-350	\$90-350	-	-

Hourly rates paid to members

Hourly rates paid to members	Minimum		Maximum		Average	
	2012	2017	2012	2017	2012	2017
With set rates	\$150	\$110	\$180	\$200	\$160	\$152
Without set rates	\$68	\$90	\$350	\$400	-	-
Ranges	\$80-100	\$165-200	\$120-275	\$90-350	-	-

Further calculations

Chairpersons

Description	Average hourly rate (to nearest dollar)
Set rates	\$178
Set rates and fees provided as an average	\$191
Midpoints where a data range is provided	\$227
Midpoint where data range is less than \$100	\$203
Midpoint for data range less than \$100, set rates and fees provided as an average	\$194
Combined responses (all midpoints, set rates and averages)	\$207

Members

Description	Average hourly rate (to nearest dollar)
Set rates	\$152
Set rates and fees provided as an average	\$165
Midpoints where a data range is provided	\$208
Midpoint where data range is less than \$100	\$180
Midpoint for data range less than \$100, set rates and averages	\$170
Combined responses (all midpoints, set rates and averages)	\$184