



Project 2 - September 2009: Analysis of senior management salaries

The second project of 2009 has been completed. On the 3rd of September 2009 Council Watch sent an email to every local body Chief Executive Officer in New Zealand. This email requested – under the subject heading **Request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987** – the salary structure, in bands of \$10,000, of the organisation’s senior managers (CEO and the level immediately below CEO) via return email. A summary of the final results are listed below. You can download the full report [HERE](#).

Response Rates

62% of local bodies failed to supply the salary structure for their senior management, of which:

- 21% refused outright to supply the data;
- 18% provided data that did not fulfil the original request;
- 23% did neither replied nor acknowledged the request.

Discussion

Despite the poor response (32 of a total of 84 Councils that were asked) the study shows that senior management staff are paid on average \$154,000 per annum. The range of salaries stretched from \$50,000 through to \$320,000. The higher-paid staff were in Waitakere City, Christchurch City, and Wellington Regional Councils.

Unfortunately the work that went into this study has been largely expended for no real result, as the data is far from incomplete. To assist us to complete the research properly the matter has been referred to the Office of the Ombudsmen.