

11 July 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-39727

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2025-184

I refer to your request for information dated Saturday, 14 June 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on Saturday, 14 June 2025. You have requested the following:

1. *"The average number of Wairarapa passengers per train trip per day over the most recent 12 month period where a Wairarapa passenger is a passenger who boards or alights the train at any station between Masterton and Featherston.*
2. *The same information for Q1 above for the preceding 12 month period.*
3. *What is the total amount of rate payer funding provided for passenger operations of the Wairarapa line over the most recent 12 month period? And what component of this is provided by Wairarapa ratepayers?*
4. *What is the total amount of revenue provided by Wairarapa commuters over the most recent 12 month period."*

Greater Wellington's response follows:

The average number of Wairarapa passengers per train trip per day where a Wairarapa passenger is a passenger who boards or alights the train at any station between Masterton and Featherston.

For the period 1 June 2024 to 1 June 2025, the average number of passengers travelling to or from the Wairarapa, per train trip, per day was 61.

For the period 1 June 2023 to 1 June 2024, the average number of passengers travelling to or from the Wairarapa, per train trip, per day was 91.

The following caveats apply to this information:

- These statistics come from Snapper passengers only, as this is our only method of identifying where passengers board and alight. Therefore, the statistics exclude passengers paying by cash or travelling for free (under 5 or SuperGold).
- These averages only include services that ran as trains. Bus replaced services are excluded from the averages.
- The patronage figures used are the trips with an origin or destination at any rail station in the Wairarapa. These stations are: Featherston, Woodside, Matarawa, Carterton, Solway, Renall Street, and Masterton.

What is the total amount of rate payer funding provided for passenger operations of the Wairarapa line over the most recent 12 month period? And what component of this is provided by Wairarapa ratepayers?

Greater Wellington does not break down its rail operations budget by rail line. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis that the information is not held by Greater Wellington and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by, or connected more closely with the functions of, another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation. We can, however, provide you with the information for the whole rail network.

The total budget for the rail unit for the financial year 2024-2025 (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025) was \$50.8 million; 49% of this was funded by rates.

Additional information about the total amounts of rates collected and the allocation of funding to different Greater Wellington departments can be found in the publicly accessible Annual Plan. This is available on the Greater Wellington website at:

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-region/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/annual-reports/>

What is the total amount of revenue provided by Wairarapa commuters over the most recent 12 month period?

We are unable to provide full revenue data for the Wairarapa line as payments made via cash or with electronic pass products (such as 30-day passes) are made against the entire rail network and are not split by rail line. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act) on the basis that the information is not held by Greater Wellington and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by, or connected more closely with the functions of, another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation

We can provide the revenue from Snapper payments, provided the passenger correctly tagged on and off using the Snapper validators. Please see the table below for the revenue from Wairarapa passengers who paid via Snapper for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Date	Fare Revenue (incl GST)
Jul	\$326,577
Aug	\$333,747
Sep	\$239,264
Oct	\$335,775
Nov	\$274,301
Dec	\$218,422
2024	\$1,728,086
Jan	\$46,712
Feb	\$245,928
Mar	\$322,406
Apr	\$265,568
May	\$316,269
Jun	\$286,177
2025	\$1,483,059
Total	\$3,211,146

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 Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington’s website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Tamsin Evans

Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka-ā-atea | Group Manager Metlink (Acting)