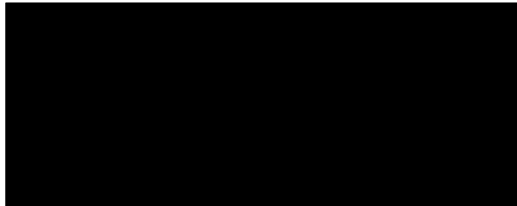


25 March 2024

Official Information Request No.8140013286
(Please quote this in any correspondence)



Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

Auckland Tennis

Thank you for your email which we received on 26 February 2024 in which you requested information related to Stanley Street tennis.

The specific details of your request and our response is below.

This is a request for clarification of official information under the under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 in relation to Stanley Street tennis.

We request the following information:

- Was a viewing box hired at the Stanley Street tennis venue by the council.***
- The dates this box was hired for and the staff or people who used this box.***
- The total cost of hiring this box with a breakdown by day and individual purchase including beverages and food.***

We interpreted your request as being about the ASB Classic tennis tournament (at the ASB Tennis Arena, 1-13 January 2024).

For your understanding: Auckland Council did not “hire” a corporate box during January’s tournament. CCO Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU) invested \$450,000 in the ASB Classic 2024 on behalf of Auckland Council as part of the 2023/24 major events portfolio. Final data isn’t available yet, but independent analysts estimated the event could deliver about \$3.61 million in new GDP and nearly 18,000 new visitor nights for the regional economy. The investment is also designed to secure valuable global broadcast and other media coverage for Auckland, reinforcing its place as a vibrant international and domestic visitor destination.

The use of a corporate box across 20 sessions during the ASB Classic is one of the contractual rights and benefits secured by TAU in its agreement with the event. For the avoidance of doubt: there is no cost to council or TAU for the box itself. For the semi-finals and finals sessions, use of the box – which has a capacity of six people – is inclusive of food and beverage costs. At other times, the box ‘host’ incurs the food and beverage costs.

TAU used the box for the strategic hosting of a range of stakeholders, customers, and current or potential future business partners in its role as the region’s cultural and economic

development agency. Such hosting is invaluable for building strategic relationships and, in the case of some overseas-based guests, showcases Auckland as a vibrant international city to invest in. Staff solely attend the event in their work capacity and must have a good business reason to request use of the box.

The 120 people who sat in the box across the 20 sessions were: 22 TAU staff and 4 TAU Board members in their work capacity as hosts; 4 council elected members invited under TAU's ticketing protocol (agreed with council) to represent the region at major events invested in on behalf of council; and 90 guests.

The ASB Classic is held in summer with sessions usually several hours in duration. TAU considers it necessary and reasonable for staff attending in their work capacity to purchase beverages – including bottled water – and food for the comfort of guests and themselves across a multi-hour session. Common sense is expected of staff in relation to spending. The total cost of food and beverages for the 96 box places used in the non all-inclusive sessions was \$6163.37 (\$64 each person). No costs were incurred by TAU above the all-inclusive limit in those sessions.

The decision by Auckland Council to release the information contained in this response was made by **Nick Hill, Chief Executive, TAU**.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions please contact me at elaine.tunai-po@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or contact me on 09 301 0101, quoting LGOIMA No. 8140013286.

Ngā mihi



Elaine Tunai-Po
Privacy & Official Information Business Partner
Governance Services