

Councillor Couros - QoN - External Consultants / Professional Services

Tuesday, 28 July 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Mary Couros

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating Officer

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Mary Couros will ask the following Question on Notice:

'In relation to the response to Agenda Item 19.4 – Question on Notice: External Consultants, considered by Council on 14 July 2026, can the Administration provide a detailed breakdown of the expenditure identified in that response, including the following information:

1. For each item listed under each portfolio (City Community, City Infrastructure, City Shaping, Corporate Services, Office of the Chief Executive and Capital), the value of the expenditure attributable to each individual project, program, activity, or engagement referred to in the response.
2. The name of each external consultant, contractor or professional service provider engaged to undertake each project, program, activity, or engagement.
3. For each engagement, the procurement method used, whether it was:
 - o an open tender.
 - o a panel arrangement.
 - o a quotation process.
 - o a direct appointment; or
 - o another procurement method (with details provided).
4. In relation to the \$12,363,065 Capital Professional Services expenditure, provide:
 - a. the amount spent on each capital project.
 - b. the amount spent on the Main Street Revitalisation Program.
 - c. a breakdown of expenditure by each street or precinct within the Main Street Revitalisation Program (including, but not limited to, Hutt Street, O'Connell Street, Melbourne Street, Gouger Street and Hindley Street, where applicable); and
 - d. the consultant or professional service provider engaged for each project together with the amount paid.'

REPLY

1. As Presiding Member, I have determined that the question is improper and will not be answered.

2. This determination has been made on the basis that the level of specificity and detail required to provide a response is excessive and would necessitate a significant body of work. In accordance with the principle that questions must not impede the conduct of the meeting or unreasonably divert Council resources, the question is considered improper.
3. In reaching this determination, I have had regard to the response provided to Council on 14 July 2026, which further explains the basis upon which the question has been deemed improper. For completeness, that response is reproduced below:
 - 3.1. *“Professional services activity has been broken down by portfolio. Because the quantity and diversity of the professional services activities would require a significant body of work to create a complete list, an indicative summary of activities (purpose of the engagement) has been included.*
 - 3.2. *The breakdown requested of individual services providers engaged during the period has not been provided, as these are matters of commercial confidentiality. The providers would each need to be consulted and approve release of details in relation to their engagement.”*

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.
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