



13 February 2023

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 7 February 2023, that was partially transferred to NZ On Air from the Office of the Minister for Broadcasting and Media.

Government agencies are not required to create information to respond to an OIA request. Requests for opinions are not considered to be requests under the OIA. Additionally, please note this guidance from the Office of the Ombudsman which states: "Official information laws can't be used to force agencies to engage in debate or to create justifications or explanations in relation to something a person might be interested in."

As such, we have limited your request to those parts that fall within the scope of the Official Information Act and have responded accordingly.

Within the scope of the Official Information Act, you have requested:

1. Please confirm which media companies have been provided with funding and how much has been paid to each, as at 31 December 2022.
2. Information on when the government funding for the media be stopped and the (Public Interest Journalism) fund discontinued?
3. The introduction (to the Te Tiriti Framework) states "The framework is an overview with action areas and some critical questions that should be useful for the development of media strategies and practices."

Please confirm what strategies and practices have been developed and approved since the 22 March 2022.

4. Part One (of the Te Tiriti Framework) further states "Mass news media have a concerning history from the beginning of colonisation to the present, of reproducing and promoting negative media representations of Māori." Please provide an example published in 2022.

Please see below our response to your request:

1. All funding decisions can be found [here](#) on the NZ On Air website. We decline this part of your request under Section 18(d) as the information requested is publicly available.
2. The fund has an official end date of 30 June 2023. The decisions of the final general funding round of the Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF) are set to be publicly announced on 17 April 2023. However, content created under the fund will continue to be published into 2025. This is because every PIJF-funded application will have a different timeframe depending on what it aims to create. For this reason, we cannot provide at this time an end date as to the when the last payment to a recipient under the Public Interest Journalism fund will be made.

Regarding non-PIJF NZ On Air funding provided under the terms of the Broadcasting Act 1989, our expectation is that we will continue to receive baseline funding from the government of the day to enable the creation of media content, as we have done since our inception in 1989.

3. The *Te Tiriti Framework for News Media*, developed by expert group Kupu Taea, was commissioned to support media wanting to develop their own Te Tiriti strategies. No other academic resource existed for them to draw on. NZ On Air states on our website that it is a **suggested resource**, and **not mandatory**.

NZ On Air is not aware of internal strategies that have been developed since the date you have specified. NZ On Air has not approved any such strategies since the date you have specified. We decline this under Section 18(g) of the OIA as the information requested is not held by NZ On Air and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

For further context, NZ On Air took care to ensure the Framework was developed independently by academics who had demonstrated expertise in both media and Te Tiriti studies and that both Māori and Pākehā academics were included. The full framework includes comprehensive citations to demonstrate where data and information has been drawn from or comments attributed to.

4. We decline this part of your request under Section 18(g) of the OIA as the information requested is not held by NZ On Air and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

As already stated, the resource was developed by independent experts. We suggest if you wish to pursue further your questions you might contact Kupu Taea, the organisation who prepared the Framework, directly.

For your further information, NZ On Air's role, one of an Autonomous Crown Entity, is defined under the Broadcasting Act 1989.

All NZ On Air-funded content is required to meet, where applicable, the principles of the NZ Media Council and/or the standards of the Broadcasting Standards Authority. However, please also note that under Section 42 of the Broadcasting Act, NZ On Air is prohibited from giving any editorial direction to any successful funding applicant.

Additionally, under Section 44 of the Broadcasting Act, the Minister for Broadcasting is prohibited from giving a direction to NZ On Air in relation to cultural matters and is prohibited from giving a direction in respect of any funded programme, content or presentation of news/current affair content.

You have the right to refer this response to the Ombudsman if you are dissatisfied with it. More information on how to do this is [here](#). NZ On Air proactively releases information in accordance with the Government's commitment to the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan. This includes publishing responses to requests for information under the OIA. Please note that this response (with your name removed) will be published on the NZ On Air website shortly and will remain on our website for 12 months.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sharon Kerry', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Kerry
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES