



Level 2
119 Ghuznee Street
P O Box 9744
Wellington 6141
New Zealand

info@nzonair.govt.nz
www.nzonair.govt.nz

Tel: 04 382 9524
Fax: 04 382 9546

3 April 2018

Hon. Clare Curran
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
c.curran@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Minister

LETTER OF EXPECTATIONS 2018/2019

Thank you for your letter of 28 Feb 2018 advising us of your expectations for NZ On Air for the 2018/2019 financial year.

As New Zealand's primary public media funder NZ On Air is delighted with your support for public media's role in supporting a strong and informed democracy. NZ On Air's vision – *connecting and reflecting our nation* – is clearly aligned to your expectations and we look forward to working with you to contribute to cultural diversity, artistic expression and independence of thought and ideas.

Policy context and new funding

As stated in our letter of 26 February 2018 to you, we are also pleased with the careful thought being given to the resourcing of public media agencies via the advisory group. I confirm we have submitted a case to the group and have been invited to discuss it with them in early April.

Strategic direction

We note your intention to review our statutory functions and we look forward to discussing this with you at the appropriate time.

We also note your commitment to separating and clarifying funding and accountability lines for RNZ. To date, this funding arrangement has provided important insulation between RNZ, a crucial part of New Zealand's fourth estate, and the government of the day. With regard to your request that we remove NZ On Air funding acknowledgments made by RNZ, we note that this is a contractual requirement on all funding recipients to acknowledge public funding. We would intend amending our funding contract following a formal announcement of the change of arrangements for separation and insulation of RNZ.

There will also be some financial implications with the removal of RNZ oversight.

Regarding captioning, we are happy to continue discussions with officials. We have increased funding, and overseen service delivery change and improvements over the last decade. Of course, extra funding for captioning forms part of our bid that describes an urgent need to increase our baseline after a decade of static funding.

Connecting and reflecting our nation

Performance and Capability

I confirm the Board will continue to take its governance duties seriously. Our core activities focus on innovation, address New Zealand's cultural capital, and deliver content that serves all New Zealanders, and we will be pleased to continue these work streams.

I also confirm that we will address your three specific areas of focus for NZ On Air;

- maintaining robust investment frameworks
- maintaining and growing organisational capability
- best practice governance at the Board level.

Our Statement of Intent 2017 - 2021 was completed last year as a four-year document setting out our new strategy for public media funding. From our perspective, we are pleased that in theme and content it is consistent with your expectations.

Assuming funding oversight of RNZ is removed, we will need to make three small changes to p6 and p8 to remove reference to our funding pool being over \$130m and our ring-fenced funding for public radio. If you are seeking further changes we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Our Statement of Performance Expectations is in train and we have provided MCH with draft financial statements. At present the draft reflects business as usual activities and we will submit it once the outcome of our funding bid is known.

Thank you again for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely



Miriam Dean CNZM QC
Chair

cc Jane Wrightson NZ On Air
Paul James, Karen Adair, Colin Holden MCH