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14 August 2019

[REDACTED]
Manakau
Horowhenua 5541

by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your further request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 9 August 2019, arising from [our response](#) dated 8 August 2019.

You have requested:

Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2019 responding to my OIA request of 13 June, which you claim not to have received despite it being sent to your head of communication's email address which has never failed before, seeking information about the "ring-fencing" of funding for RNZ.

This was the request: "How is this funding ring-fenced and what is the amount that has been ring-fenced for the financial year 2019-2020 and where is this figure published?"

Your response provides answers to the second and third parts of the request but does not explain how the funding is ring-fenced. The fact that the figure is "set" by "ministers" does not automatically mean it is "ring-fenced".

Accordingly, I should be grateful if you would provide all the information held by NZ on Air relating to the setting of the figures to be "ring-fenced" for RNZ for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years, including all communications on this subject between NZ on Air and the relevant "Ministers" and a copy of whatever formal documentation or memorandum that secures the ring-fencing arrangement. I should also be grateful for an acknowledgment that this request has been received in case your head of communication's email has had another inexplicable blockage

I emailed the following answer on 9 August:

Because the funding specifically for RNZ is set by Ministers it is therefore unable to be committed to any other of our funding outputs.

Thus it is ring fenced purely for RNZ.

I hope this makes things clearer.

You responded on 9 August as follows:

No, simply repeating the assertion that because the funding is "set" by Ministers it is therefore "ring-fenced" does not make it any clearer, or answer my question.

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How do “Ministers” arrive at the amount to be ring-fenced? How do they communicate their decision to NZ on Air?

My OIA request stands, unless you are presenting your email as a formal response.

We do not hold any information about how Ministers set the amount of RNZ funding. Generally speaking, status quo funding is the starting point and any requested increase by RNZ forms part of the Government’s Budget bid process. NZ On Air is not involved in the RNZ discussions which, like all Budget bids, are ‘budget secret’ until Budget Day. Confirmed increases in Budget amounts are published in the annual Estimates of Appropriations published by Treasury. The current year’s document is [here](#).

As we have already advised, the full amount of RNZ funding administered by NZ On Air is then included in NZ On Air’s [Statement of Performance Expectations](#) which we publish after Budget Day.

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 'Jane Wrightson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jane Wrightson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE