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19 December 2019

[REDACTED]

AUCKLAND

by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your two requests under the Official Information Act ("OIA").

1. **Your request of 5 December 2019** seeks:

... a copy of anything written about this proposal by any staff member or board member.

In particular please supply any staff produced documents or written communications of any form (eg emails) that went to the board accompanying my proposal, plus the board minutes related to my proposal and any record of the opinions of individual board members concerning the [REDACTED] project.

I have attached

- The funding paper that went to the Board (redacted information is either out of scope, or concerns other declined applications withheld under s 9(2)(b) of the Act)
- Extracts from the draft Board minutes (please note these have not yet been approved by the Board)

We do not communicate to the Board about funding applications prior to the meeting, and did not do so in this case, and we do not record the individual initial views of Board members as they discuss and reach a consensus.

As we noted in the funding letter dated 5 December:

Your application was considered by staff not previously involved in assessment of this application. As you requested, the recommendation was then fully considered by the NZ On Air Board. One board member left the room for the discussion and decision due to a conflict of interest.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer funding for [REDACTED]. Given the demands on our funding and the strength of other production applications in this round we could not give this project sufficient priority for support at this time.

The Board decision not to fund the project was unanimous. There were many projects declined in this round.

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2. **Your request of 9 December** asks five questions: we have answered each below:

1. *Is it correct that the Oct/Dec round is the only one that specifically has the Quality Journalism category?*

Yes.

2. *If so, how much money did NZ On Air allocate to the Quality Journalism category for the current financial year?*

Provisionally \$3,100,000

3. *How much money was actually allocated to Quality Journalism projects in the last December 5th round?*

\$3,342,453.

4. *If the answer to Q 1 is No: Then how much money had already been spent on quality journalism projects prior to the last December round allocation?*

None

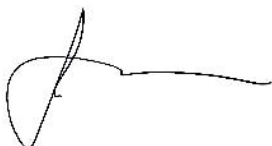
5. *How much funding money remains, if any, that could be allocated to the Quality Journalism category after the December 5th round?*

Currently approximately \$1.5M from the one-off 2019 Budget Allocation may be available, some of which may be earmarked for a returning project. This is a decision yet to be made.

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



Jane Wrightson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE