

7 December 2021

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 24 November 2021.

You have requested:

- 1. What was the amount of money allotted to Indian Weekender by NZOA from the Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF)?*
- 2. Is the money provided in bulk or is there a specific drawdown schedule?*
- 3. If there is a drawdown schedule what checks will be made to ensure that Indian Weekender engages in responsible journalism?*
- 4. What are the projects that Indian Weekender listed in its proposal that are of public interest in their funding application.*
- 5. What was the assessment criteria? We would like to know why Indian Weekender received the funding from NZOA- what proposals led to its selection?*
- 6. Do you know if any of the 'projects' that the Indian Weekender listed in their proposal have got started?*
- 7. Who are the journalists involved in these projects?*
- 8. Has the Indian Weekender highlighted that these projects are being funded by NZOA under PIJF?*

In regard to Questions 1 – 3. The Indian Weekender was approved \$705,000 at the 22 September NZ On Air Board meeting. This amount is for four journalism roles. There will be a draw-down schedule agreed at the contracting phase. Payments will be distributed when proof of draw-down criteria, including employment contracts, are submitted. All applicants to the PIJF are required to meet journalistic standards which include the Broadcasting Standards Authority and Media Council standards.

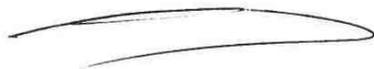
In regard to questions 4 – 8. I can advise you the criteria these roles were assessed against are the general fund criteria available on our [website here](#). As with all applicants, content produced by the roles funded by the PIJF are required to be identified as such and performance metrics of the content will be regularly measured. In answer to Question 8, the public will be able to identify content created by PIJF funded roles, as that particular content is required to use our [accreditation logo](#). This project is still in production, and not due to be completed and delivered until the end of December 2023. As such under section 9(2)(b) of the OIA we are withholding the information pertaining to the proposal, planning documents and list of potential staff provided for this project, as they are still considered commercially sensitive information. Once this project has been completed, we will be happy to reconsider your request and may be in a position to release some of the information we have redacted or withheld. Please contact us again at that time with a new request.

For your information, funding provided by NZ On Air for all successful projects is searchable on our website. You can also sign up to receive our regular industry newsletter via our website.

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



Sharon Kerry
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES