



10 February 2022



Rotorua 3010

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 8th December 2021.

You have requested:

the minutes of the Board meeting on Dec 1 related to the December Funding Round as well as information of the external phone calls received by staff about the production of Vegas.

We clarified your request regarding the year of meeting minutes and which season of Vegas you requested phone calls about. You responded with the following:

- *the papers that the board received for December 2021 hui which include the funding recommendations from NZ on Air staff.*
- *the information about the phone calls received by NZ on Air for Series 1&2 of Vegas include any and all correspondence, emails, text and letters etc.*

We have interpreted your request for correspondence to be regarding the formulation of NZ On Air's paper for the December 2021 Board meeting, as well as complaints received regarding series 1. We have excluded correspondence that you were also a recipient of, as you already have this information.

Regarding the requested papers, I have attached the requested information that we are able to release:

- Extract of the funding paper submitted to the Board for the December 1st meeting 2021 (Pg 1-4)
- Extract of the board minutes pertaining to the funding decision of the production of Vegas 2 (Pg5-6)

The following redactions in these documents have been made:

- section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(b) of the OIA to protect information where the making available of the information—
 - (i) would disclose a trade secret; or

- (ii) would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

We understand that you may have been privy to some of the information that we have redacted. We are applying our standard OIA practices in our response to you, as once released there is the potential for these documents to become public.

Regarding correspondence, we do not record phone calls and cannot provide you the content of the phone calls under section 18(e) that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

However, we can advise that prior to the submission of your application to the December 2021 Board meeting, the Head of Funding and one of the assessing staff members did have one zoom meeting - regarding this production. Under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA we cannot disclose the name of the individuals but can advise they were invited to the Ngāti Whakaue hui. The relevancy placed on this conversation is referred to in paragraph 10 and paragraph 29 of the Board paper. Further to what is included in the paper, the individuals suggested NZ On Air devise a companywide policy on iwi engagement.

We have attached the following correspondence which relates to this call

- 9 August – 14 September 2021 – Vegas Hui (Pg 7 - 9)
This email trail documents the approach and set-up of the meeting referred to above.
- 28 June 2021 – Position regarding Vegas Production (Pg 10)
Though not pertaining directly to the assessment, this was a complaint received. This was not replied to directly by NZ On Air staff.
- 1 July 2021 – Tena koe na NZ On Air (Pg 11)
This email pertains to a phone call one of our assessors took with a kaumatua from Ngāti Whakaue. The nature of the phone call was to assess the veracity of the 28 June complaint.
- 11 August 2021 – Notes re Vegas (Pg 12)
This email was to ensure that our staff received notes that came about in response to the planned Ngāti Whakaue hui, which the Vegas production were also sent. We have not included the notes, as you were cc'd in the first email. This is referred to in Paragraph 9 of the Board paper. No phone calls were made with this person.
- 21 September 2021 – Notes re Vegas (Pg 13 - 14)
- The email above was forwarded by the Head of Funding to the Deputy Content Director at TVNZ.

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.

Connecting and reflecting our nation

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a single, fluid, horizontal stroke that tapers at both ends, resembling a stylized 'S' or a simple signature.

Sharon Kerry
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES