

Hon Kris Faafoi

Minister of Justice
Minister for Broadcasting and Media
Minister of Immigration



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Dr Ruth Harley
Chair
Broadcasting Commission
PO Box 9744
WELLINGTON
ruth@rutheharley.com

Tēnā koe Ruth

2022/23 BROADCASTING COMMISSION LETTER OF EXPECTATIONS

This letter sets out my expectations for the Broadcasting Commission (NZ On Air) in 2022/23. Its purpose is to assist the Board to develop its Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) for 2022/23 and other strategic planning documents. I expect you to ensure your entire board is aware of the expectations contained in this letter. The expectations contained in my Post Budget Letter of Expectations also remain in effect.

Enduring letter of expectations

The enduring letter of expectations¹ remains in effect, and I would like to emphasise four enduring expectations in particular:

- Ensuring no surprises
- Supporting future-focussed Māori Crown relations, including supporting the Maihi Karauna and pursuing further opportunities for partnership with Māori entities and businesses
- Ensuring your workplaces and leadership teams are diverse and inclusive
- Taking active steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and reduce waste outputs.

I reiterate that 'no surprises' refers to the expectation that you will inform Manatū Taonga on my behalf in a timely manner about matters of significance within my portfolio, particularly where these matters may be controversial or become the subject of public debate.

To support Māori Crown relations and Maihi Karauna, I expect your entity to have a Māori language plan by 30 June 2023. This can be stand alone or included as part of a broader capability plan.

Since the enduring letter of expectations was released, the government has committed to an action plan to reduce gender, Māori, Pacific and ethnic pay gaps and create a fairer

¹ Refer to <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/resources/enduring-letter-of-expectations-to-statutory-crown-entities-2019/>

workplace. I expect to support the boards to implementation the action plan within your entity.

Sector priorities

The Government has three goals for its term: to keep New Zealanders safe from COVID-19, to accelerate the recovery and rebuild; and to tackle foundational challenges.

The response to COVID-19 remains of central importance in the coming year. Investing in critical infrastructure and public services will be important to our economic recovery, along with a focus on renewable energy, waste reduction, sustainability and pursuing carbon neutrality.

Crown entities through their operations play an important role in supporting the response to COVID-19 and the social and economic recovery. Responsible management of assets and finances is part of the contribution NZ On Air makes to the Government's goals.

I expect NZ On Air to continue to work with Manatū Taonga on the monitoring and evaluation of COVID-19 and your response as required.

The Government is committed to ensuring that future generations of New Zealanders can access content that reflects their languages, experiences and communities in way that meet their needs and interests. NZ On Air has a key role in this given the functions set out in its legislation which work towards the Government's outcomes for New Zealand audiences. This includes New Zealand audiences who choose to access mainstream and targeted content and services that support:

- their needs and interests as people living in Aotearoa, and which in particular reflect the language and experiences of Māori, and Pacific peoples and other under-served audiences
- their ability as New Zealanders to be informed and engaged members of our participative democracy and open civic society, and
- their access to a range and diversity of content that they value and trust.

As a funder of organisations in the public and private sectors, NZ On Air is expected to understand the Government's outcomes for public media organisations. The Government continues to endorse the following public media outcomes to provide guidance to public media entities.

- Public media in New Zealand are:
 - operationally and editorially independent
 - securely and sustainably funded
 - able to respond effectively to an evolving operating environment and relevant to changing consumer preferences, in particular younger audiences, and
 - complementary to and collaborative with private media.
- Public media plays an integral role in contributing to New Zealand being:
 - a connected, informed, cohesive and independent nation
 - a healthy, participative democracy, and
 - confident in and aware of our unique identity, cultures and languages.

Strong Public Media programme

The Government is committed to strengthening the role of public media and Māori media in the New Zealand community, ensuring public media is fit for the future and is able to thrive amid the changing media landscape.

As you know, Cabinet has agreed to test the viability of approaches to establishing a new public media entity through a business case process. If Cabinet agrees to establish a new public media entity, my expectation is that the entity would be operational in 2023.

I would like to thank NZ On Air for its ongoing contribution to the Strong Public Media programme over the last year. It is my expectation that this active engagement and productive dialogue will continue.

Sustainable public interest journalism

NZ On Air has played an important role in supporting media organisations through the delivery of the public interest journalism funding, and the benefits of this contestable fund have already been clearly demonstrated. I appreciate NZ On Air's collaboration with Manatū Taonga and media organisations. I ask that you continue to work closely with my officials, and to keep them informed of the ongoing implementation, delivery and monitoring of the fund, including participation in reporting and evaluation as necessary.

Entity direction

My specific expectations for NZ On Air in 2022/23 are that it will:

- Continue to support the production of diverse local content and boost reach to under-served audiences, including Māori, Pacific, regional, children and young audiences
- Collaborate with the sector to maximise NZ On Air's contribution to public media outcomes
- Demonstrate strategic and organisational leadership while managing through a period of change
- Consider different delivery platforms to reach new and different audiences as well as supporting diversity of content and voices, and media plurality
- Maintain investment frameworks to support high-quality decision-making
- Support New Zealand music within the funding provided
- Support officials to progress the Strong Public Media programme, including making expertise available when required.

Governance

I expect the Board to continue to oversee the performance and long-term strategic direction of NZ On Air and provide best-practice governance. This includes monitoring NZ On Air's financial wellbeing and long-term viability and ensuring that NZ On Air has robust risk awareness and management processes in place.

I expect the Board to undertake a self-evaluation of its governance practices and provide me with a report by 31 October 2022, copied to Manatū Taonga. This report should summarise the Board's governance performance and identify areas of improvement. I would like you to continue your regular discussions with Manatū Taonga on skill needs at

the board level. I also expect the Board to work with Manatū Taonga to review its governance manual to ensure policies comply with the Crown Entities Act 2004 and other relevant legislation.

While the Board has the most immediate and direct responsibility for monitoring NZ On Air's performance, I expect it to continue to provide Manatū Taonga, as my agent, with information on performance against planning documents and timely information on risks and opportunities. I have asked Manatū Taonga to focus on your reporting on the public interest journalism fund.

I invite you to respond to this letter outlining the key strategic challenges and opportunities facing NZ On Air and how you intend to respond to the specific expectations contained in this letter.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of your Board and NZ On Air's staff and look forward to another successful year ahead.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister for Broadcasting and Media

cc: Cameron Harland, Chief Executive, New Zealand On Air
cc: Bernadette Cavanagh, Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage