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9 June 2022

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 26 April 2022.  
We thank you for your patience as we work through a backlog of OIA requests.

You have requested:

1. *Is NZ On Air aware of a TV series set in the 'Once Were Warriors universe' of novelist Alan Duff?*
2. *Is NZOA helping to fund a TV series created by novelist Alan Duff, working title Stolen Innocence?*
3. *Has NZOA received a funding application for a TV series created by novelist Alan Duff, working title Stolen Innocence?*
4. *Has NZOA been approached by Alan Duff regarding potential funding?*
5. *Have any meetings taken place to look at NZ On Air supporting a TV series from Alan Duff?*
6. *Any other comments from NZ On Air about Alan Duff's planned Once Were Warriors TV series ie. Is there a working relationship for an Alan Duff project in 2022 involving NZ On Air at this stage?*

With regard to Q 1-4, NZ On Air declines these requests on the basis that the information sought is commercially sensitive and involves intellectual property rights. Intending applicants must be able to develop their project and seek funding support without the risk of their idea being copied before it is even off the ground. We decline questions 1 -4 of your request under section 9(2)(b) of the OIA.

In regard to question 5, we can confirm that NZ On Air staff had a meeting with Mr Alan Duff and Te Māngai Pāho staff in early February 2022. There are no minutes from this meeting, so we decline to release any written materials under section 18(e) - that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist. It is a regular part of the agency's business to meet with producers to discuss how funding rounds work, the processes of applying for funding, and eligibility criteria. This was the nature of this meeting.

Question 6 is a request for comment rather than information. However, we would like to note that any future applications, if received from Mr Duff, would enter the normal contestable round for all eligible funding applications and assessed per our normal processes.

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.

## Connecting and reflecting our nation

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 read 'Sharon Kerry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sharon Kerry

**HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES**