



10 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 8 April 2022.
We thank you for your patience as we work through our backlog of OIA requests.

You have requested:

all the information you have concerning the funding from the Public Interest Journalism Fund of up to \$1,593,000 for seven journalism roles at Maori Television, up to \$206,000 for two journalism roles at TVNZ and up to \$695,560 for three journalism roles at Discovery New Zealand's Newshub. The information that I am requesting will cover the organisation's applications and expenditure plans and reports on the implementation and monitoring of the operational and financial aspects of those plans.

As a significant amount of this information is commercially sensitive where the projects have not reached completion this includes application proposal documents and expenditure plans, we have refused to release these items under 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.

However, we can release the following items, which I have listed per specific project:

Māori Television roles

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

- Application forms for the longlist and shortlist/full proposal stages.
- Funding paper for NZ ON Air Board approval, held 21-22 September 2021.
- Extract of Board Minutes approving this decision dated 21-22 September 2022

In these documents we have redacted the following information:

- Applying section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons

- As the contracting of this proposal is not yet completed commercially sensitive information has been redacted under 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.
- At date of the OIA request, Māori Television has not yet been required to provide financial or operating reporting. As per our reporting schedule, outlined on our [web site here](#). Reports on *the implementation and monitoring of the operational and financial aspects* cannot be released under section 18(e) that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

TVNZ roles

While an application for two roles was approved for \$206,000, TVNZ withdrew the request for funding post the approval. No funds have been distributed to this application.

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

- Application forms for the longlist and shortlist/full proposal stages.
- Funding paper for Staff Investment Committee approval, held 8 September 2021.
- Extract of Staff investment Committee Minutes approving this decision 8 September 2021

In these documents we have redacted the following information:

- Applying section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons
- Commercially sensitive information has been redacted under 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.
- As this proposal was never contracted *expenditure plans and reports on the implementation and monitoring of the operational and financial aspects of those plans* cannot be released under section 18(e) that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Newshub Discovery NZ

While funding for three roles was initially approved for \$695,560 over two years, the applicant was not able to recruit two roles and only one was contracted. This contract remains commercially sensitive.

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

- Application forms for the longlist and shortlist/full proposal stages.
- Funding paper for Staff Investment Committee approval, held 8 September 2021.
- Extract of Staff investment Committee Minutes approving this decision 8 September 2021

In these documents we have redacted the following information:

- Applying section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons
- Commercially sensitive information has been redacted under 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.

Connecting and reflecting our nation

- At date of the OIA request, Discovery has not yet been required to provide financial or operating reporting. As per our reporting schedule, outlined on our [web site here](#). Reports on *the implementation and monitoring of the operational and financial aspects* cannot be released under section 18(e) that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.


Once these projects have 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

Attachments:

- a) Māori TV Application form – longlist pg. 1
- b) Māori TV Application form – shortlist / full proposal pg. 4
- c) Māori TV Board paper extract 21 - 22 September 2021 pg. 7
- d) Māori TV Board minutes extract 21 - 22 September 2021 pg. 15
- e) TNVZ Application form – longlist pg. 17
- f) TNVZ Application form – shortlist / full proposal pg. 20
- g) TNVZ Staff Investment Committee paper extract 8 September 2021 pg. 22
- h) TNVZ Staff Investment Committee minutes extract 8 September 2021 pg. 32
- i) Discovery Application form – longlist pg. 36
- j) Discovery Application form – shortlist / full proposal pg. 39
- k) Discovery Staff Investment Committee paper extract 8 September 2021 pg. 42
- l) Discovery Staff Investment Committee minutes extract 8 September 2021 pg. 52