



Level 2  
119 Ghuznee Street  
P O Box 9744  
Wellington 6141  
New Zealand  
  
info@nzonair.govt.nz  
www.nzonair.govt.nz  
  
Tel: 04 382 9524  
Fax: 04 382 9546

15 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 20 May 2022. We thank you for your patience as NZ On Air work through a backlog of OIA requests.

You have requested:

1. *In the documents released connected with the decision to fund the "Being Chloe" documentary, the minutes of the Staff Investment Committee meeting on November 15 2021 show an apology from Ruth Harley at the same time stating (in attendance only). What does this mean?*

The Staff Investment Committee is comprised of the Senior Leadership Team. At these funding meetings the Chair of the Board sometimes chooses to sit in and observe the meeting. The Chair has no voting rights, or decision-making powers. Their presence is noted as 'in-attendance' only to reflect that status. The Chair did not attend this particular meeting, which is why they are noted as an apology.

2. *Could you please provide an unredacted copy of the paragraph under 2.0 Funding Decisions 2.2 Funding Overview "(c) noted that seven applications were denied full assessment as they did not meet our criteria." It is even more important to know why applications are declined.*

The projects did not meet basic [eligibility criteria](#) for funding as they did not have a qualifying platform attached to their project. Accordingly, they did not progress to full assessment. The redacted item is a list of names of the particular projects that were deemed ineligible. Due to the intellectual property contained and commercial sensitivity of the projects, we do not release detail on declined applications. This is for several reasons including enabling applicants to continue to 'shop' their project, preventing projects from being copied, and enabling projects to apply for funding to other organisations without the stigma of a 'decline' from NZ On Air. We decline this part of your request under section 9(2)(b) of the OIA.

3. *Could you also please provide unredacted paragraphs "9 Scripted, 10 Factual and 11 Public Interest Journalism"?*

We have attached a page at the end of this letter with that information.

## Connecting and reflecting our nation

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

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**

## 9. Scripted

- a. Three will be bringing the laughs in 2022, with four exciting comedy events playing out across multiple nights. *The Comedy Gala*, *the Great Comedy Debate*, *Last Laughs* and a special extended live episode of *7 Days* will entertain local audiences across Three's linear and digital platforms, showcasing a range of established comedians and helping build new career pathways for emerging talent;
- b. Also guaranteed to tickle Aotearoa's funny bone, *Taskmaster NZ* will return for a third season. Led by the Taskmaster Jeremy Wells and his assistant Paul Williams, *Taskmaster NZ 3* will put five new Kiwi comedians through their paces, in a range of tasks designed to test their wits, smarts, and overall ability to think outside the box;
- c. Two iconic Disney films will be reimagined and repurposed in te reo Māori for audiences in Aotearoa. *The Lion King* and *Frozen* will be available free-to-air on Māori Television, in theatres and online on Disney +, and will offer extensive talent development in areas of te reo, music composition, Māori screen performance, production and post-production. The productions will also create original waiata for each film's soundtrack, which will be freely available;
- d. Set in the 1860's on the eve of The Battle of Ōrākau, the new feature film *Ka Whawhai Tonu – Struggle Without End* will follow two battle-torn teens, Haki and Kōpū, who form an unlikely bond, sharing a desire to not just survive, but to live beyond the carnage of war. *Ka Whawhai Tonu* will screen on Māori TV.

## 10. Factual

- a. Chris Parker and Eli Matthewson will take a deep dive into the secret world of New Zealand adult entertainment in the new series *The Male Gayz: Going Deep*. Produced for The Spinoff, the series will follow the comedic duo as they meet the people making adult content locally, while also learning how adult content can be ethically produced and consumed;
- b. Also for The Spinoff, a new documentary anthology series featuring four standalone films that will showcase the depth and diversity of Aotearoa and those who live here;
- c. *Trans & Pregnant* is a thought-provoking new documentary about two men who are on a journey to parenthood, not by adoption or surrogacy, but by Frankie - a trans man - carrying the baby. This TVNZ 1 documentary will follow the couple as they navigate societal roadblocks, misconceptions, and the lack of information available about pregnancy for trans men;
- d. Screening on Māori Television, *ARO\_* is an eight-part first-person narrated series that shows how Te Ao Māori shapes the unique way Māori think, experience and see the world;
- e. The new Three documentary, to screen after the next election, *Being Chlöe* will explore the political and personal life of New Zealand's youngest MP Chlöe Swarbrick;
- f. *State of the Union* is a new documentary and live stream series for Stuff that celebrates the strides that have been made in women's rugby, while also reflecting on issues that continue to hamper progress;
- g. *I Am* returns to TVNZ 1 for a fourth season, sharing six emotional first-hand accounts of New Zealanders who are living with, or have overcome, extreme adversity;

- h. Also returning in 2022 is Aotearoa Pacific gospel series *Soul Sessions* for TP+, short-form documentary initiative *Loading Docs: The Power Of Emotion*, and ANZAC Day coverage on TVNZ 1.

#### 11. Public Interest Journalism

- a. In Round 3, 13 targeted role applications were recommended for total funding of up to \$1,447,869;
- b. This round includes funding of three Partnership Editor roles at Allied Press, Newshub and RNZ respectively;
- c. Six organisations will receive funding for roles that will strengthen the cultural competencies of their businesses, including funding for a te reo Māori translator to work across Stuff publications. Other roles funded in this round include an audio innovation editor (NZME) and sub-editor roles at The Spinoff and Newsroom to lift the quality and output of PIJ content;
- d. Applications for Project funding (circa \$7m allocated) were sought in News and Current Affairs projects (including children's and youth news), investigative journalism projects and projects that improve the overall quality, provision and/or sustainability of PIJ;
- e. A total of 20 projects are recommended for funding up to \$7,753,648;
- f. Six proposals, encompassing children's news programmes, te reo learning and strengthening student journalism, were approved;
- g. Other successful applications include investigations into New Zealand's charity sector, the state of Aotearoa's oceans, climate change and the plight of tamariki in State care;
- h. A group of legacy programmes (Kea Kids News, The Hui, Q&A, The Nation, Stuff Circuit and Newsroom Investigates) will receive a total of \$5,791,655 million in continuing funding from the NZ On Air Factual fund.