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Erika Whittome

By email: via FYI website

Tēnā koe Erika

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") that was transferred to us from Broadcasting and Media Office of Hon Kris Faafoi, Minister for Broadcasting and Media on 26 April 2022. We appreciate your patience as we work through a backlog of OIA requests.

You have requested:

1. *The goal of "Open Justice - Pātiti" reporting stream.*
2. *The definition of "Open Justice" as opposed to say "closed justice". All courts are already "open" in NZ (apart from family courts and certain criminal courts) with decisions available online. Would you please share the "open" aspect of this new reporting initiative paid for by the government?*
3. *What are the challenges this "Open Justice" seeks to overcome in New Zealand justice reporting?*
4. *What are the guidelines and keywords to be included and excluded from this justice reporting?*
5. *Are the journalists reporting on for "Open Justice - Te Pātiti" to always be named journalists for accountability and traceability in media standards?*
6. *The following cases all have a theme of unlawful activities from people in power or government officials. These have not been covered in detail (if at all) by the "Open Justice - Te Patiti". What are the reasons for not reporting on these high profile court decisions by "Open Justice - Te Patiti" which uncover unlawful activities from government officials and corporate bosses?*
 - A. *22 October 2021 High Court ruling, Justice Cook says at page 11 paragraph [30] in relation to being required to undergo a medical treatment for a job "...the level of pressure is significant and amounts to coercion".*
 - B. *17 Dec 2021 [United Airlines Employee Vaccine Mandates stopped](#)*
 - C. *13 Jan 2022 US [DEPARTMENT OF LABOR vaccine mandates stopped](#)*
 - D. *25 Feb 2022 [Vaccine mandates found unlawful under NZ Bill of Rights in](#)*
 - E. *18 April 2022 [US Supreme Court removed mask requirements on transportation including planes](#)*

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Our responses are as below:

1. In their funding application the project was described as “Open Justice - Pātiti” is a national multimedia service aiming to cover court and legal affairs out of regions that currently received little or no in-depth coverage.”
2. We do not hold any information on this please contact the producers NZME, <https://www.nzme.co.nz/contact-us/>
3. Please see the response to point 1.
4. We decline your request regarding keyword directives to a media outlet under Section 18(e) of the OIA as this information does not exist. PIJF General Guidelines can be found on our public website. <https://www.nzonair.govt.nz/funding/journalism-funding/#resources-to-apply>
5. All content funded through the PIJF is identified by a logo and/or the words ‘Funded through the Public Interest Journalism Fund’. The content produced by Open Justice, Te Pātiti roles (journalists) is accredited to the Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF) in this manner.
6. NZ On Air is not involved in editorial content so cannot comment or direct what issues are to be covered. However, we can provide the following comments:
 - A. The Open Justice, Te Pātiti project was not in operation.
 - B. The Open Justice, Te Pātiti project was not in operation.
 - C. The Open Justice, Te Pātiti project was not in operation.
 - D. This case was covered by Open Justice, Te Pātiti, <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/not-demonstrably-justified-high-court-upholds-challenge-to-police-and-nzdf-vaccination-mandates-terminations-suspended/LMAUM7LZWV6FFQWAKKJFLKYLIE/>
 - E. The PIJF does not cover international news as per the General Guidelines publicly available on our website. (Please refer to response 4.)

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

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