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14 July 2022

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 17 May 2022.

On Friday 20 May NZ On Air responded to your initial query with an email outlining the released statement regarding the funding [here](#) and a release of documents under the Official Information Act [here](#). We have not had a reply from you to confirm if your queries have been answered, please see below for more detail from NZ On Air.

You had requested:

1. Who made the decision to grant \$200,000 in funding for a proposed documentary about a sitting Member of Parliament?

This has been answered in our 20 May information release.

2. Is this a tacit endorsement by NZ On Air of a political candidate?

This a request for comment, not information, we decline to respond.

3. If not, how does NZ On Air aim to stay politically neutral in light of funding this documentary?

This a request for comment, not information, we decline to respond.

4. Please explain the reasoning used by NZ On Air in deciding to fund this documentary.

This has been answered in our 20 May information release.

5. Please release the guidelines that NZ On Air has regarding their obligations to stay politically neutral.

NZ On Air operates under the [Broadcasting Act 1989](#).

6. Please state whether NZ On Air has met their neutrality obligations by funding this documentary.

This a request for comment, not information, we decline to respond.

7. How many days (or hours) did it take for NZ On Air staff to consider the documentary proposal before granting funding?

We do not count hours per funding decision in our assessment process. We decline this part of your request under Section 18(e) of the OIA, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist. To understand how NZ On Air assesses applications please refer to the [following information](#) on our website.

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8. *What processes did NZ On Air go through when considering this particular proposal?*

This has been answered in our 20 May information release and at Q 7.

9. *Please provide all correspondence between NZ On Air and Chloe Swarbrick MP regarding this documentary.*

We decline this part of your request under Section 18(e) of the OIA, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

10. *Please provide all correspondence between NZ On Air and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet regarding this documentary.*

We decline this part of your request under Section 18(e) of the OIA, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

11. *Please provide all correspondence between NZ On Air and the Film Commission regarding this documentary.*

Please find attached all correspondence NZ On Air has had with the New Zealand Film Commission up until the date of your request.

12. *Please provide all correspondence between NZ On Air and any other government Ministry regarding this documentary.*

We decline this part of your request based on section 18(e) of the OIA, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

13. *Please release all correspondence between senior NZ On Air staff regarding the choice to fund this documentary. If there are any relevant board minutes, then release those too.*

This has been answered in our 20 May information release. All correspondence between senior NZ On Air staff regarding the choice to fund this documentary took place at our 15 November 2021 Staff Investment Committee meeting and was recorded in the corresponding minutes.

Once this project has been broadcast/released 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