



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

19 July 2022

By email: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 16 July 2022.

You have requested:

I note that you have proved a significant amount of funding to the Spinoff to cover the Auckland local body elections.

I note that the the [sic] aforementioned media outlet has taken a somewhat less than neutral stance towards some candidates which seems inappropriate given they have received [sic] funding from yourselves for coverage.

I would like to ask if there were any conditions relating to the funding provided and if there are any communications relating to the need to maintain neutrality.

Please consider this as request for information under the official information act.

Please find below our response to your request:

We note that the NZ On Air-funded coverage of The Spinoff's 2022 Local Elections does not begin until 1 August 2022. Any coverage prior to this date is not funded by NZ On Air. You can identify funded Public Interest Journalism (PIJF) content by the accreditation, using the PIJF logo or the words 'Public Interest Journalism funded through NZ On Air.'

More generally, all PIJF recipients are required to follow our [PIJF General Guidelines](#). All submitted applications are assessed by a panel made up of internal and external assessors who assess each application against the General Assessment Criteria outlined in the General Guidelines. This includes guidance that 'opinion' is not considered journalism covered by the PIJF.

As part of these guidelines, publishers of funded content must register with the NZ Media Council and adhere to the [NZ Media Council principles](#). If you believe that any funded content breaches any of these principles, you may make a complaint directly to the publisher in line with the NZ Media Council's [complaints procedure](#).

Connecting and reflecting our nation

Further to this, under [Section 42 of the Broadcasting Act](#), NZ On Air is prohibited from giving a direction to a funding recipient in respect of editorial content.

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