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18 August 2022

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act (“**OIA**”) which we received on 13 June 2022. On 12 July 2022, NZ On Air extended the timeframe of this response by a further 30 working days, with the updated response date being 22 August 2022.

You have requested:

1. *A funding breakdown of all organisations that have received funding from the Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF) to date.*
2. *Please list all online news articles that have received funding from the PIJF, how much funding was applied for, and how much funding each specific article has received.*
3. *A list of all projects that have received funding from the PIJF, how much funding was applied for, and how much each specific project has received.*
4. *A list of all organisations who have applied for, but were denied funding under the PIJF. Please also provide the funding sought.*
5. *A list of all organisations who have applied for, and successfully received funding under the PIJF. Please also provide the funding granted.*
6. *Please release all successful funding applications made by organisations to the PIJF, and their reasons for why their nominated projects fulfil a public interest service that would otherwise have been at risk.*

Please see below our response to your request:

1. All PIJF funding decisions are made public and can be found via our [website](#). Funding decisions are made public at the completion of each round and the media releases for each include the following:
[15 July 2022](#) - First funding injection for Public Interest Journalism boosts reporting and training across the motu
[20 September 2021](#) - September 2021 Funding Decisions
[6 December 2021](#) - Boost for diverse media content and roles in latest journalism funding
[8 December 2021](#) - December 2021 Funding Decisions
2. Content funding is for public interest journalism roles and projects, as opposed to specific articles and as such there is no document containing all online news articles and how much funding a specific article has received or how much a specific article cost.

This is also in part due to our data set not being complete, as some funded publishers are yet to be fully brought into our tracking system, which itself is still a trial system. We decline this part of your request based on [Section 18\(e\)](#) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

However, while we are unable to meet your request in full due to this data set not being complete, we can provide:

- a spreadsheet that details online PIJF-funded articles that have been tracked as part of our monitoring system.

This spreadsheet details the title of each tracked online article and its respective host website. As noted above, this is an incomplete data set and does not currently capture all online content funded under the PIJF. It should also be noted this spreadsheet does not cover print, app, social media, linear television, and radio content and therefore does not give a full picture of the amount of content produced by funded roles and projects. We decline to release information regarding readership figures as they relate to each article under the Section 9(2)(b)(i) of the Act.

Further to this, we can also provide the following attached document:

- A spreadsheet detailing each successful project and roles funding application, their contracted content outcomes and respective publishing platform.

Please note that all funded content is also required to follow our [accreditation guidelines](#).

3. Please refer to the answer above for Paragraph 1.
4. NZ On Air does not release detail on declined applications due to the intellectual property contained and the commercial sensitivity of projects. This is for several reasons, such as enabling applicants to continue to develop and '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.
5. Please refer to the answer above in Paragraph 1.

6. Due to the intellectual property contained and commercial sensitivity of the projects, we do not release details of funded application that are still in progress. We decline this part of your request under section 9(2)(b) of the OIA.

Regarding your request for the “reasons for why nominated projects fulfil a public interest service” please find attached:

- Copies of funding recommendation papers submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee on 28 June 2021, 6 September 2021 and 17 November 2021
- Copies of funding recommendation papers submitted to the NZ On Air Board on 13 - 14 July 2021, 21 - 22 September 2021 and 30 November – 1 December 2021

Regarding applications that have been completed as at the date of your request, please find attached:

- Copies of six successful funding proposals submitted to the Public Interest Journalism Fund that have been completed at the date of your request.

Please note that the following redactions have been made to all attachments referred to in this paragraph:

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

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