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5 August 2022

[REDACTED]  
Stuff Limited  
8 Stafford Street  
Dunedin 9016

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Official Information request and response**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 27 July 2022.

Following clarification from you on 28 July 2022 have requested:

- 1. Successful applications from Allied Press concerning The South Today for each PIJF round, and any recommendation (for each of those applications) recommended by the Staff Investment Committee.*
- 2. Any reviews on each of those successful applications.*

Please find our response below:

1. Due to the nature of the journalism sector and the commercially sensitive information pertaining to the budget, intellectual property, execution, and delivery of the projects, we decline to release this information under the following sections of the Official Information Act:
  - 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.

However, please see attached the requested information that we can release:

- Excerpt from the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee (SIC) funding meeting paper dated 28 June 2021 concerning The South Today 2021.
- Excerpt from the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee funding meeting paper dated 13 June 2022 concerning The South Today 2022.

On both occasions, SIC approved the application for the recommended amount of funding.

The following redactions in the attached documents have been made:

- 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.

2. As part of the funding and contracting process for successful PIJF applications, each applicant is required to submit multiple Progress and Cost Reports (as per [this guidance](#)) to NZ On Air throughout the life of their project to receive an instalment of its granted funding. These are reviewed by multiple NZ On Air staff as part of our payments approval process.

NZ On Air also has in place a monitoring system to track funded content. This is regularly reviewed by NZ On Air staff to check that content is being delivered as proposed.

Regarding specific reviews of the two applications noted above, to date we have not received any reports and therefore we decline your request under [Section 18\(e\)](#) of OIA as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

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**