

23 November 2022

Nick Farlow

By email: fyi-request-20912-f1244cd9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Nick

Official Information Act request re Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 ('the Act') request received on Tuesday 18 October 2022.

You requested:

“On 18 October 2022 a joint statement was issued by your CE and your Chair regarding your decision to decline funding for a 'schools Shakespeare festival' which has been running for many years.

Please provide all documentation (including emails) relating to the development of this statement, including correspondence between the Chair and CE, correspondence and feedback from any internal employees or contractors and correspondence with any external parties and feedback in relation to any drafts.

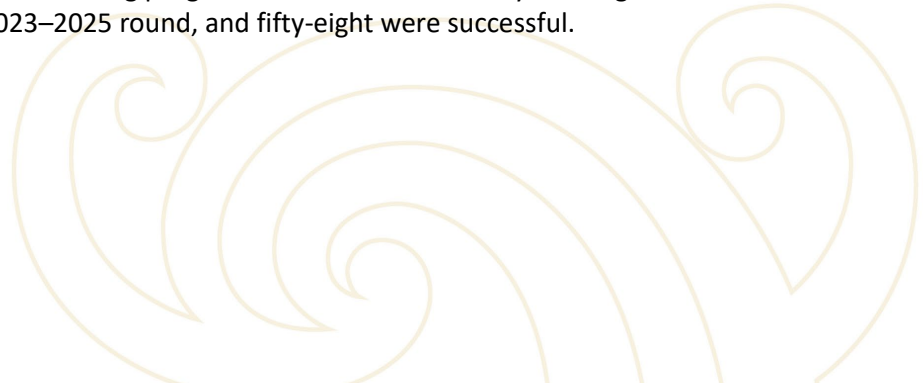
If external parties assisted with this correspondence please advise the cost of that assistance.”

Background to statement

The joint statement from Creative New Zealand Chief Executive Stephen Wainwright and Arts Council Chair Caren Rangi was developed in response to media and public discourse on Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand's (SGCNZ) unsuccessful application for funding under the Toi Uru Kahikatea Investment programme.

The statement was published on our website on 18 October 2022 following the Government's announcement that funding would be provided to SGCNZ through the Ministry of Education: <https://www.creativenz.govt.nz/News-and-blog/2022/10/18/02/21/49/Creative-New-Zealand-responds-to-Governments-decision-to-fund-Shakespeare-Globe-Centre-New-Zealand>

Creative New Zealand did not decline funding for the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. SGCNZ applied to our Toi Uru Kahikatea programme for Creative New Zealand funding from 2023–2025. Under its current funding agreement (through to December 2022), SGCNZ receives \$31,827 a year. The Toi Uru Kahikatea funding programme is contestable. Sixty-two organisations submitted proposals to the 2023–2025 round, and fifty-eight were successful.



Creative New Zealand received many strong applications to the Toi Uru Kahikatea programme; it was those with the greatest alignment with our strategic priorities that were successful. Unfortunately for SGCNZ, their proposal wasn't as strong as others and didn't align strongly with the Kahikatea programme requirements, so they were unsuccessful.

Consideration of Kahikatea programme applications involved a robust decision-making process with a series of 'checks and balances'. This included an external review of applications from external peer assessors and consideration by a Strategic Advisory Panel comprising people outside Creative New Zealand chosen for their relevant expertise and experience. Final recommendations were made to the Arts Council by our Chief Executive, and final decisions were made by the Arts Council.

We have proactively released our response to an Official Information Act request for the full decision document for SGCNZ's application to the Kahikatea programme. A copy of this document is available on our website: <https://www.creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/Project/Creative-NZ/CreativeNZ/PageDocuments/Response-to-request-for-information-provided-to-Shakespeare-Globe-Centre-New-Zealand.pdf>

Information requested re 18 October statement

Internal development of statement

The 18 October 2022 statement was prepared internally by Creative New Zealand staff and approved by the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Arts Council. The statement was drafted by the Communications team, with input provided by the Co-Manager, Policy & Performance, and Senior Manager, Arts Development Services.

We are withholding the emails exchanged between staff, the Chief Executive and the Arts Council Chair to develop drafts of the statement under section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown, or members of an organisation in the course of their duty.

Media statements are an important way for Creative New Zealand to communicate with the public. Releasing these internal exchanges would impact our ability to effectively prepare draft media statements in the future. It is important that we can robustly and candidly express initial views and thoughts on the preparation of media statements in writing.

Correspondence with external parties

No external parties were involved in the development of the statement.

As an autonomous Crown entity, Creative New Zealand is guided by the 'no surprises' principle in our relationship with the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage. 'No surprises' refers to an expectation from the Minister that we inform them about matters of significance in their portfolio in a timely manner, particularly where matters may be controversial or the subject of public debate.

A final copy of the 18 October 2022 media statement was provided to Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage and the Office of the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage under 'no surprises' at 2.15 pm and 2.38 pm respectively, in advance of the statement being published on our website at 3.28 pm. A copy was also provided for information to the Office of the Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Hon Kiritapu Allan.

Please find copies of our emails to Manatū Taonga and the Minister's Office **enclosed**.

Please note that 'no surprises' is not the same as consultation. We did not receive any feedback or input on the 18 October 2022 statement from either Manatū Taonga or the Office of the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

If you wish to discuss this information request, please get in touch via email to:
info@creativenz.govt.nz

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui, nā

David Pannett

Pou Whakahaere Matua, Rautaki me te Tūhono
Senior Manager, Strategy & Engagement

From: [Lucy Jackson](#)
To: [Jasmyne Chung](#)
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Announcement this afternoon - comms material to inform reactive lines
Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:21:39 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Thanks Jas for sending that through. Out of scope

Thanks
Lucy

From: Jasmyne Chung <s9(2)(a)>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:15 pm
To: Lucy Jackson s9(2)(a)
Cc: s9(2)(a) >
Subject: RE: Announcement this afternoon - comms material to inform reactive lines

Kia ora Lucy

Out of scope

Headsup – here’s our statement as it stands. Putting final touches on it but Stephen and Caren are happy with it. Timing of release TBC, but we’re trying to get it out soon. I’m going to get in touch with Kieran shortly as well as I had promised him I’d keep him posted.

Vinaka,
J

Creative New Zealand responds to Government’s decision to fund Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand

A joint statement from Creative New Zealand Chief Executive Stephen Wainwright and Arts Council Chair Caren Rangī:

We’re pleased to hear that the Ministry of Education (MoE) has agreed to work with Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand (SGCNZ) to find the funding that SGCNZ originally sought from Creative New Zealand.

The Government has recognised that the MoE is better placed to provide this funding.

This highlights the positive impact that additional government investment can have on the arts.

While it’s great that a solution has been found for this one organisation, questions remain about

other arts organisations and individual artists who find it difficult to mobilise or who don't have the international pulling power to draw attention to their funding needs.

It also unfortunately doesn't change the reality for Creative New Zealand that we're still facing an unprecedented deluge and there are big issues around the sustainability of arts funding in Aotearoa.

This is a great outcome for SGCNZ, but we've found some of the rhetoric over the last few weeks alarming, misleading and racist. We would like to take this opportunity to address and clear up some of these things. For those who have contacted us with questions over the past couple of days we offer this statement in response.

Creative New Zealand does not hate Shakespeare. We support Shakespeare productions and we support Shakespeare being in schools. We simply can't meet the demand for our funding, and hard decisions need to be made.

Here are the facts:

Sixty-two organisations submitted proposals to our Kahikatea programme for funding from 2023 to 2025. Fifty-eight proposals were successful. We have a limited amount of money to invest, and we had to make some tough decisions. Unfortunately for Shakespeare Globe Company New Zealand (SGCNZ), their proposal wasn't as strong as others and didn't align with the Kahikatea programme requirements, and so they missed out this time around. Under their current contract (through to December 2022), they receive \$31,827 a year. SGCNZ have guaranteed (transitional) funding from us until June next year and had been told about other Creative New Zealand funding options available to them.

Let's break that down:

The Toi Uru Kahikatea investment programme that SGCNZ applied to is contestable funding – in other words, applicants compete for funding because there's only so much money to go around. It lasts for three years and at the end of that time, organisations in the programme need to reapply.

SGCNZ is part of a lineage of exceptional artwork and no one disputes that they do good work or make an important contribution. However, because an organisation has been funded for many years, does not mean they are entitled to continued funding without going through due process. As a Crown entity we need to run fair, transparent processes.

Creative New Zealand has not "cancelled Shakespeare in schools" nor did we "defund" SGCNZ. Their bid for Creative New Zealand funding towards organisational support was unsuccessful within a group of other stronger proposals that were more closely aligned with our strategic and funding priorities.

Let's talk about how we make funding decisions:

It's our privilege to support the creation and presentation of New Zealand art across multiple artforms as part of our core role. However, we don't have the money to fund everyone. This

means that many talented artists, groups and organisations often miss out. Now especially, we're under enormous, unprecedented pressure with more organisations and individuals requesting funding, and less money to give out.

We make funding decisions with input from the sector. That means we contract artists and arts practitioners outside of Creative New Zealand to evaluate applications and make recommendations. We use the terms 'external peer assessors' and 'assessment panels'. We do a series of checks and balances ourselves before our Chief Executive or the Arts Council make final decisions. For this particular process, the Arts Council received advice from arts practitioners, input from our staff, and recommendations from the Chief Executive, before deliberating on the issues and opportunities and reaching final decisions.

We ask the arts practitioners who provide assessment on proposals to be constructive in their feedback, but we do need them to be able to comment on an application freely and honestly. Many people have taken exception with some of the comments made about SGCNZ's proposal. These comments have been taken out of context; they were a small component of a thorough decision-making process.

We also want to address racially-charged rhetoric.

It's always a good thing when arts news inspires open conversation, robust debate, and new ideas. Not everyone will agree, and that's a part of a healthy democracy – of which the arts play a crucial role.

However, we're appalled that some of the criticism has become about race. Much of this commentary has been cruel and hurtful to Māori and Pasifika artists whose funding proposals were successful. We challenge the narrative that our decision was driven by reverse racism and that we are the "cultural Taliban". Creative New Zealand's mandate is to fund New Zealand made work within the limited resources we have.

We also take exception to Creative New Zealand's frontline staff being targeted with hate mail – they don't make funding decisions. As a Crown entity, we welcome feedback on our decisions, and these can be directed to us: xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx and xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx.

Out of scope

From: [Elizabeth Beale](#)
To: [Daiman Smith](#); [Doris Kaua](#)
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: FYI - CNZ media statement - going out by 3pm today
Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:41:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
Importance: High

Fyi – any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Ngā mihi

Elizabeth Beale

Co-Manager, Policy and Performance | Pou Whakahaere Kaupapa Here, Whakatakoto Mahere, Pūrongo hoki

Creative New Zealand | Toi Aotearoa

Mobile: s9(2)(a) | **DDI:** | **Main line:** |
E: | **W:** creativenz.govt.nz
Level 2, 2-12 Allen Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011, New Zealand
PO Box 3806, Wellington 6140, New Zealand



From: Jasmyne Chung s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:38 PM
To: Kieran Meredith ; Rachel Fox
s9(2)(a)
Cc: Elizabeth Beale
; Lucy Jackson
Subject: FYI - CNZ media statement - going out by 3pm today

Kia ora Kieran and Rachel

As discussed with Kieran on the phone just now, please find below the joint media statement from Caren Rangī and Stephen Wainwright.

We'll be going out with this by 3pm today. I've also sent this to Lucy at MCH and am currently feeding into some back pockets they've prepared.

Vinaka,
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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: [Rachel Fox](#)
To: [Jasmyne Chung](#); [Kieran Meredith](#)
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#); [Elizabeth Beale](#); [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#); [Lucy Jackson](#)
Subject: RE: FYI - CNZ media statement - going out by 3pm today
Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:45:43 pm

Many thanks Jasmyne.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Jasmyne Chung <[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)>
Date: Tuesday, 18 Oct 2022, 14:38
To: Kieran Meredith <[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)>, Rachel Fox <[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)>
Cc: [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)>, Elizabeth Beale <[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)>, Lucy Jackson <[s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)>
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From: [Elizabeth Beale](#)
To: [Sarah Tebbs - Ministry for Culture and Heritage](#) s9(2)(a)
Subject: FW: FYI - CNZ media statement - going out by 3pm today
Date: Tuesday, 18 October 2022 2:43:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
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[image004.png](#)

Fyi – let’s catch up soon.

Ngā mihi

Elizabeth Beale

Co-Manager, Policy and Performance | Pou Whakahaere Kaupapa Here, Whakatakoto Mahere, Pūrongo hoki

Creative New Zealand | Toi Aotearoa

Mobile: s9(2)(a) | **DDI:** | **Main line:**

E: | **W:** creativenz.govt.nz

Level 2, 2-12 Allen Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

PO Box 3806, Wellington 6140, New Zealand



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