

24 NOV 2020



George Morrison
fyi-request-13595-e697d6dd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe George

Thank you for your email of 25 August 2020 asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

all information held by your office in relation to the previously signaled second tranche of support for struggling media companies. Please include copies off all correspondence to and from the Greens and/or NZ First in relation to the support package.

On 1 September 2020 you agreed to refine the scope of your request to cover the following information:

- (1) formal advice (Aide memoires, briefings and reports) received by the Minister regarding the previously signaled second tranche of support for struggling media companies.*
- (2) In terms of correspondence, I am simply after communications with coalition support parties; I would like all emails, letters and notes of meetings between your office the respective parliamentary offices of the Greens and NZ First relating to the signaled second tranche of support for media companies.*

Please find enclosed the following documents:

#	Date	Description	Comment
1	22-Apr-20	BR2020/172: Covid-19 Response: Second Media Support Package	Information withheld under 9(2)(a), 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i)
1A	n/a	Appendix 1: Annexe 2: Template – Submission Seeking Funding for COVID-19 Related Costs	Information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
2	3-Jun-20	BR2020/238: Background and context of the second media support package	Information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)
3	12-Jun-20	BR2020/228: Strategic framework for a sustainable media sector	Information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	24-Jun-20	AM2020/276: Submission of the second media support package	Information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)
5	26-Jun-20	BR2020/282: Overview of the second media support package	Information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)

5A	26-Jun-20	Wave Three Funding Initiatives A3	Information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)
6	3-Jul-20	BR2020/270: Strategic framework initiative: convening a sector reference group	Information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)

Information withheld

Some information has been withheld from the enclosed documents.

Information that is under active consideration has been withheld from some documents in order to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials. I have made this decision under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA.

Some information has been withheld from Document 1 as I believe the release of this information would inhibit the future exchange of free and frank opinions between officials, and that inhibition would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs. I have made this decision under section 9(2)(g)(i).

Some information has been withheld from Document 1A under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA to protect information where the making available of this information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Telephone numbers of Ministry staff have been withheld in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. This decision is made under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Part 2

I acknowledge there is communications from coalition and support parties within scope of your request. These communications are withheld under s9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

Context

As you may be aware, the second media support package did not progress to a Cabinet decision. As such, the formal advice that I received and have decided to release reflects draft proposals. These documents should be read in that context, and some of the advice contained within them may have been subsequently overtaken or progressed through a different approach.

Two proposed initiatives within the second media support package were progressed separately. These include a baseline funding increase for RNZ, which was agreed by Cabinet in May 2020 as part of COVID-19 Response and Recover funding decisions, and the 'Building a sustainable and viable media sector' initiative, which was agreed by Cabinet in August 2020.

In addition, the information released refers to a proposed initiative on government advertising. This initiative was not progressed as decisions were taken to use the \$11.1 million supplementary funding in the first media support package for a similar purpose.

Information available online

The Cabinet Paper *COVID-19 Response - Building a sustainable and viable media sector* is also within the scope of your request. I am pleased to advise that this Cabinet paper will soon be made publicly available on the Ministry for Culture and Heritage website. As such, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Faafoi', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister for Broadcasting and Media