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24 March 2022

Chuck Schooner

By email: fyi-request-18811-f5f3ae68@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Chuck,

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 8 March 2022 which has been transferred and received by NZ On Air on 14 March 2022 from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

You have requested:

1. *terms of service for any news/media organisations that received money from the public interest journalism fund and/or conditions that were associated with receiving money*

Regarding point 1, information pertaining to funding agreements is publicly available on our website. We have funding agreement templates that outline terms of services for anyone receiving Public Interest Journalism Funding. This information is available [here](#). Please refer specifically to page 7 and 8 of the draft contracts – titled 'Your Obligations'.

2. *any and all communications/emails relating to content that can and can't be published in accordance with receiving money from the fund*

Regarding point 2, please see our response to point 1 for standard information issued at the contracting stage. We decline your request regarding specific communications/emails relating to content that can and can't be published under Section 18(e) of the OIA as this information does not exist.

3. *topics that can and can't be reported on*
4. *any narratives that are required to be reported on*

Regarding point 3 and 4, please note our charter, the [Broadcasting Act 1989](#). Under Section 4(1) the responsibility of broadcasters for programme standards is set out. Regarding NZ On Air, please note under Section 42 once funding has been approved, NZ on Air has no editorial input. Therefore, cannot restrict topics or narratives of reporting.

As stated in our funding agreements with recipients:

"...the editorial control of all Content is entirely at your [funding recipients] discretion."

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Content must meet standards outlined under the Production Activity section on page 7 and 8 of our funding agreements which include legality, technical quality, media standards, and community standards.

5. *any and all directives to a media outlet if a report was published where a warning was sent to the media outlet (if at all)*

Regarding point 5, we decline your request regarding directives to a media outlet and keywords that are not permitted under Section 18(e) of the OIA as this information does not exist.

6. *keywords that are not permitted in our media and a copy of the “writing guidelines” for the personnel placed in non state owned media organizations .*

Regarding point 6, [the General Guidelines](#) published on our website outline examples of topics that are and are not considered in the assessment process to be public interest journalism. As referred to in all our PIJF agreements, we have no editorial control over the content we fund but require all content to abide by standards of legality, technical quality, media standards, and community standards.

For further context, these journalistic standards are outlined on the websites for the [NZ Media Council](#) and [Broadcasting Standards Authority](#). In addition, please see the best practice international guidelines as outlined in the “Don’t Cross the Line” rules in [YouTube’s Community Guidelines](#). Any complaints regarding content can be directed to those bodies. Processes for complaints are outlined on their websites.

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