

Hon Willie Jackson

Minister for Broadcasting and Media
Minister for Māori Development

Associate Minister for ACC
Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing)
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment (Māori Employment)



5 May 2023

Brian Mullane

fyi-request-22453-e1872f8d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Brian

I refer to your request received on 14 April 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As background, Discovery New Zealand is a subsidiary of Warner Bros. Discovery that operates several television channels in New Zealand. MediaWorks TV operated as a subsidiary of MediaWorks New Zealand until 2019/2020 when television operations were sold to Discovery, Inc. and rebranded as Discovery New Zealand. Neither Discovery New Zealand nor MediaWorks TV are or were public or Crown companies, each are privately owned and independent from the Government.

Please find a response to each part of your request below:

- 1. How much money did NZ government pay Discovery to help them get established in New Zealand?*

My office does not hold any information in relation to this part of your request. However, I refer you to several publicly available websites which provide information on funding provided to media outlets:

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage

- <https://mch.govt.nz/media-sector-support>

Irirangi Te Motu New Zealand on Air:

- <https://www.nzonair.govt.nz/funding/#funding-decisions>

Te Māngai Pāho

- tmp.govt.nz/en/funding/funding-decision-search/television/

I should also note that no single agency or Minister would hold exhaustive records of what funding may or may not have been provided to a third party.

- 2. What concessions, i.e. tax or any other, were offered to Discovery to clinch the deal for them to buy Mediaworks?*

My office does not hold any information in relation to this part of your request.

- 3. What ongoing payments and concessions were paid or made available to Discovery and when will/did they stop?*

My office does not hold any information in relation to this part of your request.

4. How long before the 2020 election did government start negotiating with Discovery?

My office does not hold any information in relation to this part of your request. Please note, I became Minister for Broadcasting and Media in June 2022.

5. How much money in total has been paid to all New Zealand media, over and above the initial \$55 million.

I refer you to question one.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willie Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and 'J'.

Hon Willie Jackson
Minister for Broadcasting and Media