

4 May 2026



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Our ref: OIA 2526-1026

Tēnā koe Miguel

Response to your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 25 March 2026 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) requesting information under the Official Information Act (the Act) relating to the Ethnic Communities Fund (ECDF) grant awarded to Asturlab Cultural Centre for the '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign'.

Our response to your request

Please note that the *Information Schedule* (attached) provides a detailed breakdown of the documents that have been released in full, released in part or withheld under the applicable sections of the Act. Some documents are in scope for more than one part of the request, and this information has also been provided.

Part 1

Final Results Report (Withheld Document)

- *The date on which the final results report was received by the Ministry.*
- *All correspondence relating to any requests for clarification, further information, or amendments to that report.*
- *Any internal assessments, reviews, or commentary on that report.*

The Ministry received the final results report on 8 July 2025.

There are two documents in scope of this part of the request. Documents one and two are released to you with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, and some information redacted as it is outside the scope of the request.

Please note that for document one (financial results report), the financial information narrative presented differs from the expenditure breakdown. After the initial results report was submitted, the Ministry sought further clarification on the costs. The applicant provided updated information which is reflected in the final expenditure report.


Part 2

Application of Section 9(2)(ba)(i)

- *Any internal communications relating to the decision to withhold the final results report under section 9(2)(ba)(i).*
- *Any documents setting out the basis on which:*
 - I. an obligation of confidence was considered to exist, and*
 - II. release was considered likely to prejudice the future supply of similar information.*

There are two documents in scope of this part of the request.

Document three is released to you with some information withheld under 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, and some out of scope information redacted. Document four is released in full with some out of scope information redacted.



As part of considering the request, the Ministry consulted with the applicant on the release of the information, including the final results report. The applicant raised concerns over the final results report being released while the Ministry was actively seeking clarification. Noting that the release of the report at that stage may cause unnecessary confusion, the applicant asked that the report be withheld for the time being to allow them to provide the clarification sought without undue prejudice.

Part 3

Due Diligence – Specific Evidence

-Any documents that record or summarise the Ministry’s assessment of whether the funded activities:

- I. involved advocacy, or*
- II. were intended to influence public opinion.*

The Ministry does not hold information that records or summarises the Ministry’s assessment of whether funded activities involved advocacy or intend to influence public opinion. As such, this part of the request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

The Ethnic Communities Development Fund (ECDF) does not, and is not intended to, support political campaigning or activities outside its published purpose, eligibility, and funding criteria.

The application described community engagement, moderated discussions, youth activities, and digital content to support respectful dialogue, including engagement with Muslim, Jewish and other communities. The grant was assessed against the ECDF published purpose, eligibility and funding criteria and was approved based on the information provided at the time. For further information on ECDF purpose, eligibility and funding criteria, please see the Ministry’s Policy and Administrative Guidelines 2023 at [Policy and Administrative Guidelines 2023](#).

Part 4

Assessment Timeline and Prioritisation

-Any internal records or communications that explain:

- I. the timeframe in which this application was assessed and approved, and II. whether the application was treated as urgent or expedited, and if so, why.*
- III. how applications are prioritised, including any criteria for urgent or expedited consideration.*

The Ministry received the request on 27 November 2023. This request was assessed and approved on 1 December 2023. The grant was awarded on 6 December 2023 and paid out on 13 December 2023.

Applications are ordinarily prioritised by submission date. The Ministry aims to notify applicants of funding decisions within 12 weeks from the date applications are submitted. In certain circumstances, applications can be fast-tracked by the Ministry to provide timely responses where communities face immediate pressures, or to mitigate emerging risks for local communities. I refer you to the table below which outlines the difference between our normal (12 week) and fast-track processes.

Normal Process	Fast Track Process
Document Check	Document Check
Assessment	Assessment
Moderation	N/A
Panel Review	N/A
Panel Meeting	N/A
Decision Making	Decision Making
Notification	Notification
Payment	Payment
Publish on the Website	Publish on the Website
Result report	Result report
Review the result report and close the grant	Review the result report and close the grant

This application was one of seven applications approved, including from Jewish, Muslim and multi-faith organisations, through a fast-track process to enable timely consideration of ECDF applications made following the October 2023 outbreak of hostilities in the Israel–Hamas conflict.

Part 5

Assistance to Applicant

- Any internal policies or guidance relating to the provision of advice or assistance to ECDF applicants during the application process.
- Any records indicating whether the assistance provided in this case was considered standard practice.

The Ministry’s ECDF Decision Handbook outlines a Community Funding Advisor’s role as follows:

- Analysing ECDF applications, including assessing applications for eligibility, alignment with Fund purpose and priorities, financial robustness, risk, community need, benefit, and ability to deliver to provide Panel Members with advice and recommendations for funding investment.
- Assisting applicants by providing advice to community groups and organisations on matters such as legal incorporation, governance, organisational infrastructure, financial management, project feasibility, project management, risk awareness, sustainability, accountability, staff/volunteer management, and planning.
- Assisting community groups and organisations with the development, maintenance, and evaluation of applications for ECDF funding.


The guidance provided for this application was consistent with standard practice and within the scope of the role of a Community Funding Advisor.

Part 6

Handling of OIA 2526-0072

- Any internal communications created after receipt of OIA 2526-0072 that relate to:
 - I. the decision to withhold information, or
 - II. the scope of information released.

This part of the request is captured in document three. Additionally, the Ministry holds scoping meetings or general discussions to determine the scope of a request and assess the information in scope which includes any decisions related to releasing information under the Act. These discussions are part of standard practice with the final decisions captured within document four. In this instance,



the Ministry does not hold any formal meeting notes or any other internal communications other than what has already been provided in our response to OIA2526-0072.

As required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information under section 9 of the Act are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team:

Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services

Information Schedule

Document Number	Date	Title	Scope	Decision
1	8 July 2025	Final Results Report	Question 1	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), and as out of scope.
2	5 August 2025 – 26 August 2025	Email – Grants results report additional information required	Question 1	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
3	15 August 2025 – 16 September 2025	Email – Notification of OIA2526-0072 – Release of final document	Questions 2 and 6	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), and as out of scope.
4	21 August 2025	OIA2425-0072 Cover Memorandum	Question 2	Released in full. Some out of scope information redacted.