

Hon Melissa Lee

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Ethnic Communities
Minister for Media and Communications
Associate Minister for ACC



Susie Staley
Chair
Broadcasting Standards Authority



Dear Susie

2024/25 Expectations for the Broadcasting Standards Authority

I am writing to outline how the Broadcasting Standards Authority Board can support the Government's priorities, and my specific and general governance expectations for the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) during 2024/25 to 2026/27. I want you as a board to identify opportunities to support the BSA to address these expectations for my consideration in your response letter and include actions in the BSA's 2024/25 accountability and planning documents.

Government Priorities

In an ongoing challenging fiscal environment, one of the Government's key priorities is lifting New Zealand's productivity and economic growth to increase opportunities and prosperity for all New Zealanders. Another priority for the Government is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the public service and of government funded services to create a vibrant and thriving New Zealand.

The Government is committed to delivering results, and all public organisations, including the BSA, have a part to play. I expect boards to work alongside stakeholders and build connections to focus resources, minimise costs, achieve budget savings, and deliver improved performance. I expect you to set ambitious targets and ensure you have robust performance measures in place for you and Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage to monitor progress.

In February 2024, the Minister of Finance sent me a letter asking that all statutory Crown entities assist the Government in achieving its fiscal sustainability goal. The board should be prepared to demonstrate how BSA's spending is as efficient, effective, and responsive as possible to increase the prosperity and wellbeing of New Zealanders, and I will be asking Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage to report to me in this space.

I expect boards to be conscious of the Government's priorities and expectations in any future Enduring Letter of Expectations issued to statutory Crown entities.

Specific expectations for the Broadcasting Standards Authority

My key focus is to ensure Crown revenue is well directed and supports investment and innovation in the media and communications industries to contribute to the Government's priority of building the economy to create a vibrant and thriving New Zealand. I have asked for advice on how to modernise regulation across media and communications to support a strengthened media sector in the regions and in the context of social and media channels.

You will be aware, as a regulator, that the current regulatory system creates inconsistencies across platforms, and this is a particular area of focus for me. I understand that the BSA Board sees a need for the regulatory framework for media in New Zealand to be enduring and to ensure it covers future technological change as well as addressing existing technologies.

Within this context, as the BSA undertakes its core activities and plans for the future, I expect it to:

- balance freedom of speech with harm prevention in the broadcast media sector. In carrying out its role I expect the BSA to consider the choice of activities it undertakes within its resources to achieve this now and into the future
- ensure the BSA operates efficiently, and maintains a focus on driving down costs and seeking operational improvements whenever it can, to best achieve more sustainable cost-efficient delivery of services
- ensure the BSA delivers services that meet the needs of different groups, including for those of different ages and from diverse ethnic backgrounds
- report on performance in a manner that is clear on the extent to which the BSA is achieving its objectives and represents value for money
- support Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage and the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) with expertise of a regulator when they undertake policy work on strategy, legislative and regulatory reform. This includes my review of the Broadcasting Act 1989, implementation of the Fair Digital News bargaining Bill (if passed) and work led by DIA to reform content regulation.

General governance expectations

Strong board governance is critical to the performance and success of Crown entities, including independent Crown entities (ICEs) like the BSA. I expect you to lead the board to maintain good governance practices and ensure board members develop their skills. Please provide Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage with a summary of the findings of your board evaluation by 30 November 2024 to support the Ministry's advice on future board appointments.

While the board has the most immediate and direct responsibility for monitoring the BSA's performance, I expect it to continue to provide Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, as my agent, with information on performance against planning documents and timely information on risks and opportunities.

One aspect of good governance I would like to reiterate is the no surprises principle. I would like you to keep myself and Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage informed promptly of matters of significance within my portfolio, particularly where these matters may be controversial or may become the subject of public debate.

I invite you to respond to this letter outlining how you intend to respond to the Government's priorities and my specific expectations when you provide me your draft 2024/25 Statement of Service Performance for comment on 30 April 2024.

I look forward to meeting with you regularly to discuss progress on supporting the Government's priorities and my expectations.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Melissa Lee
Minister for Media and Communications

- cc Stacey Wood, Chief Executive, Broadcasting Standards Authority
- cc Leauanae Laulu Mac Leauanae, Secretary and Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage

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30 April 2024

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
Parliamentary Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email

Tēnā koe Minister

Broadcasting Standards Authority | Te Mana Whanonga Kaipāho (BSA): Response to Letter of Expectations

We refer to the letter of 18 March 2024 received from Hon Melissa Lee, setting out the Government's expectations for the BSA in 2024/25.

Below we detail how we intend to contribute to the sector and respond to these expectations, in a manner consistent with Government priorities. We also outline the BSA's key strategic challenges and opportunities. This response is consistent with the themes identified in our proposed SPE and SOI for this period.

In this time of significant challenges for the media sector, our purpose – freedom in broadcasting without harm – remains as relevant as ever, but is increasingly difficult to achieve under our current legislation. We look forward to working with you towards modernising New Zealand's media regulation framework.

Government Priorities

We acknowledge the BSA's role in contributing to the Government's priorities of lifting productivity and economic growth – improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the public service and government funded services, to create a vibrant and thriving New Zealand.

We will continue to work closely with our monitoring agency Manatū Taonga to report on our targets and performance. The BSA's spending is efficient and effective to the extent it can be, acknowledging that until we see regulatory reform, it is becoming increasingly challenging for us to achieve our strategic goals.

We have made changes in recent years to our research spend, with most of our recurring research and surveys now being conducted on an alternating, biennial basis. This made sense as much of this work is internally focused and the results very consistent over many years. Doing this has allowed us to direct more funding towards work which is externally important,

like engaging with a diverse range of audiences and broadcasters. This year we are conducting a research project to find out how different ethnic communities in New Zealand are affected by harm in broadcasting, with a focus on Māori, Pacific Peoples, Asian and Muslim communities.

We share facilities with NZ On Air which helps us keep our overheads low, given our small size. We will continue to operate efficiently and look for innovation within the bounds of our current regulatory settings.

Specific Expectations for the BSA

We are very supportive of work to modernise regulation across media and communications to support a strengthened media sector. We are heartened to know that progressing this work is an area of particular focus for the Government and offer our continued support as an experienced regulator in this space.

As the BSA undertakes its core activities and plans for the future, we will:

- continue to actively support reform initiatives directed at ensuring the modernisation and sustainability of the sector, including implementation of the Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill (if passed) and the potential review of the Broadcasting Act 1989
- use appropriate fiscal restraint and effectively use the resources we have
- look for efficient ways to deliver our services, and be selective in the activities we undertake within our current remit
- continue our work to support social cohesion by delivering services that meet the needs of different groups, including for those of different ages and diverse ethnic backgrounds
- continue to deliver a robust complaints process, including clear reporting on our performance to demonstrate we are achieving our objectives and delivering value for money. None of the BSA's decisions has been appealed since July 2021, indicating our decisions are clearly reasoned and consistent with community standards.

General governance expectations

We maintain good governance practices and ensure our board members develop their skills.

Our board has a formal development plan in place, including external training at an appropriate level. One of our Board members recently attended Iti Kōpara's Crown Entity Governance Training course. We also have an engagement strategy to connect with media and other stakeholders, as well as other organisations with aligned, rights-based purposes.

We will provide a summary of the findings of our board evaluation by 30 November 2024. We will of course keep you informed promptly of any matters of significance as they arise.

Key strategic challenges and opportunities

The need for regulatory reform is our most significant and pressing challenge, and our greatest opportunity. Without reform, we risk becoming unable to deliver meaningful outcomes that protect New Zealanders from harm, or contribute to a sustainable media sector. Local media, including news and current affairs, but also film, radio and television generally, play a critical role in developing and representing our national identity. Media has immense power to uplift and drive social cohesion, but also carries a risk of serious harm, which is why standards and regulation remain so important.

We are looking forward to supporting work to modernise our legislation, and we see this as an opportunity to make the regulatory landscape in the media sector modern, effective, and fit-for-purpose. Our purpose is more relevant than ever – the threats of mis- and disinformation, and decreasing trust in public media, have created an environment where the risk of harm from broadcasting is heightened in new ways. However, we are not equipped with the legislative tools to effectively combat these risks.

A modern and effective Broadcasting Act could help create a fairer levy system, a jurisdictional reach that reflects where people are getting their news and other content, and remove provisions like the Sunday advertising rules that contribute to an unfair playing field for linear broadcasters. It could also allow us to pursue new risk-mitigation strategies in the education and engagement space, promote media literacy and critical analysis, and support public trust in the media.

The Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill is another opportunity to support the sector, and we have been keeping up to date with the progress of comparable legislation overseas. Media have been clear that this is no silver bullet for the industry's woes, but is one part of creating a fairer system. Even if the current platforms – including Google and Meta – retreat from providing news as part of their business model, other platforms and services will no doubt arise to take their place, and having legislation in place to safeguard against the misuse of local content will help to protect our media companies from exploitation. If the Bill passes, and if the BSA is appointed as the regulator for the new framework, we will work closely with Government to ensure an efficient and effective implementation.

Although broadcaster levies have remained higher than forecast in the last two financial years, we do not expect this to continue. The recent significant announcements of closures and cuts at some of our larger broadcasters are signs of the challenges the industry is facing. We do not yet know exactly what impact this will have on levies, but we continue to make conservative forecasts about our future revenue. Broadcasters are moving towards digital-only services and it may be a matter of only a few years before commercial linear broadcasting becomes largely obsolete. In this scenario, levies would essentially disappear under our current model. Even if our jurisdiction is broadened to include digital news services, it is uncertain that levies would continue at their current levels – we know digital advertising does not draw the same level of revenue as traditional broadcast advertising.

Draft SPE enclosed

Our proposed Statement of Performance Expectations, enclosed with this letter, sets out our key priorities and targets for the coming year. We welcome your feedback and any questions you have.

Yours sincerely



Susie Staley
Chair

From: Stacey Wood
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2024 8:59 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BSA meeting with Minister for Media and Communications

Thanks [REDACTED] –

We are interested to hear anything the Minister can tell us about plans to review the Broadcasting Act, appreciating that there may be Cabinet processes underway.

Susie and I will try and be in the same room for the meeting, but if you could send the meeting invite to her as well that would be appreciated – her email address is [REDACTED].

Ngā mihi
Stacey

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 8:54 AM
To: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: BSA meeting with Minister for Media and Communications

Kia ora Stacey,

Thank you for confirming. I will arrange for an online meeting.

Are you able to confirm what agenda items you and the Chair would like to discuss with Minister?

I am aware of the following, but am happy to adjust:

- Fair Digital News Bargaining Bill
- LOE
- SPE

Once confirmed I'll send a calendar invite through.



[REDACTED]
Private Secretary (Media and Communications) | Office of Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage | Minister of Justice
Minister for State Owned Enterprises | Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations | Minister for Media and Communications

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Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Paul Goldsmith, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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From: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 2:16 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: BSA meeting with Minister for Media and Communications

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for this invitation. Susie is in Wellington next Tuesday chairing another board meeting, but we can both be available for an online meeting at 3.15pm.

We look forward to meeting with the Minister.

Stacey

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 1:04 PM
To: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Subject: BSA meeting with Minister for Media and Communications

Kia ora Stacey,

Minister Goldsmith is available to meet BSA next Tuesday in Auckland. We can arrange for 2:45 or 3:15pm for a 30-minute meeting.

Please advise of the Chair and your availability and I will also make arrangements if an online meeting is needed.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]
Private Secretary (Media and Communications) | Office of Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Arts Culture and Heritage | Minister of Justice
Minister for State Owned Enterprises | Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations | Minister for Media and Communications

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Please note information about meetings related to the Ministers' portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the

Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>

From: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 1:14 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mch.govt.nz>
Subject: BSA - Q3 Quarterly Report

Kia ora kōrua

With apologies for the delay, please find attached the BSA's Q3 report.

Ngā mihi nui
Stacey

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive



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Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



24 FEB 2025

Susie Staley
Chair

Dear Susie

2025/26 Expectations for Broadcasting Standards Authority

In early 2024 the former Minister for Media and Communications, Hon Melissa Lee, provided you with a Letter of Expectations for the three-year period 2024/25 – 2026/27. I am writing to confirm the broader Government priorities outlined in that letter still remain for 2025/26, as well as additional expectations I have for the Broadcasting Standards Authority for 2025/26. I ask that you and the Board identify opportunities to support the BSA to address these expectations for my consideration in your response letter and include actions in BSA's 2025/26 accountability and planning documents.

Specific Expectations for the Broadcasting Standards Authority

As a regulator, I acknowledge the challenges that the BSA faces in monitoring entities and standards in traditional broadcasters under the Broadcasting Act 1989, which is now over 30 years old. In 2025/26 I intend to progress media sector reforms that will deliver modernised technology-neutral regulation of all professional media operating in New Zealand.

A further key focus of mine is to ensure Crown investment is well directed and supports innovation in the media and communications industries to help build the economy and create a vibrant and thriving New Zealand. Work will continue in 2025/26 on modernising regulation across media and communications to support a strengthened media sector, particularly in the regions and in the context of social media and digital channels. This includes reviewing the Broadcasting Act 1989 and seeking opportunities to ensure the institutional arrangements for the administration of Crown content funding are modern and consolidated as well as efficient and effective. I expect that the BSA will work with the Ministry as it ensures legislation and policy are fit for purpose in the context of this programme.

General governance expectations

Strong board governance is critical to the performance and success of Crown entities. I expect you to lead the Board to continue to improve its governance practices and ensure the board members develop their skills. From the 2024/25 Letter of Expectations, it was my expectation that a board evaluation would be completed by 1 December 2024. I understand the evaluation was not completed by this date and am therefore requiring an independent evaluation to be completed by 30 September 2025 to support advice on future board appointments.

While the board has the most immediate and direct responsibility for monitoring the BSA's performance, I expect it to continue to provide the Ministry, as my agent, with information on performance against planning documents and timely information on risks and opportunities. This includes providing updates on how the board and the BSA is working to meet these expectations, through regular reporting. Quarterly reporting, in particular, is a useful mechanism for me to understand how you are delivering against performance targets, meeting savings goals (for example in the contractors and consultants' space), delivering against my expectations, and provide assurance in areas where performance is not on target. I expect the BSA to continue to provide the Ministry with quarterly reporting, which includes all of the above.

One aspect of governance I would like to reiterate is the no surprises principle. I would like you to keep myself and the Ministry informed promptly of any matters of significance within my portfolio, particularly where these matters may be controversial or may become the subject of public debate.

I invite you to respond to this letter outlining how you intend to respond to the Government's priorities and my expectations when you provide me your draft 2025/26 Statement of Expectations for comment on 30 April 2025.

I would like to thank you, your Board and the BSA staff for all your hard work, and I look forward to meeting with you regularly to discuss progress on supporting the Government's priorities and my expectations.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Media and Communications

cc Stacey Wood Chief Executive

cc Leauanae Laulu Mac Leauanae, Secretary and Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage

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30 April 2025

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
Parliamentary Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email

Tēnā koe Minister

Broadcasting Standards Authority | Te Mana Whanonga Kaipāho (BSA): Response to Letter of Expectations

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2025, setting out the Government's expectations for the BSA in 2025/26. Thank you also for meeting with us on 7 April – we were grateful for the opportunity to discuss the BSA's challenges and opportunities in the context of the media reform proposals.

This letter sets out the BSA's current strategic position, and how we intend to contribute to the sector and respond to your expectations, consistent with Government priorities. This response is consistent with the themes identified in our proposed SPE and SOI for this period.

We were pleased to see the consultation on media reform proposals from Manatū Taonga proceed in February and March, and hope this will lead to a streamlined and modernised media regulation system. As you know, the current legislation makes it increasingly difficult for us to achieve our mission of protecting freedom of expression while preventing harm to audiences.

Government priorities

The BSA has a role to play in contributing to the Government's priorities of lifting productivity and economic growth – improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the public service and government funded services, to create a vibrant and thriving New Zealand.

We will continue to work closely with our monitoring agency Manatū Taonga to report on our targets and performance. The BSA's spending is efficient and effective to the extent it can be, acknowledging that until we see regulatory reform, it is becoming increasingly challenging for us to achieve our strategic goals.

We have made changes in recent years to our research spend, with most of our recurring research and surveys now being conducted on an alternating, biennial basis. This made sense

as much of this work is internally focused and the results very consistent over many years. Doing this has allowed us to direct more funding towards work which is externally important, like engaging with audiences and broadcasters. This year we are conducting a research project to find out what factors affect public trust in various types of media, and what measures might restore or improve levels of trust.

We share facilities with NZ On Air which helps us keep our overheads low, given our small size. We will continue to operate efficiently and look for innovation within the bounds of our current regulatory settings.

Specific expectations for the BSA

We are very supportive of the Ministry's work to modernise regulation. We were pleased to see consultation on the range of media reform measures proposed and commend Ministry staff for their work developing the proposal. The BSA provided a submission and has offered support to the Ministry as an experienced media regulator.

We frequently engage with broadcasters and other stakeholders and, while there are a range of views on how media should be regulated, there is broad agreement that the current system is in urgent need of change. A modernised and technology-neutral system for regulating professional media operating in New Zealand would allow us to ensure Crown investment is well-directed and supports innovation.

In the coming year we will:

- continue to actively support reform initiatives
- use appropriate fiscal restraint and effectively use the resources we have
- look for efficient ways to deliver our services, and be selective in the activities we undertake within our current remit
- continue our work to support social cohesion by delivering services that meet the needs of different groups, upholding the community's expectations as reflected in our standards
- continue to deliver a robust complaints process, including clear reporting on our performance to demonstrate we are achieving our objectives and delivering value for money.

General governance expectations

We maintain good governance practices and ensure our board members develop their skills.

Our board has a formal development plan in place, including external training at an appropriate level. We also have an engagement strategy to connect with media and other stakeholders, as well as other organisations with aligned, rights-based purposes.

An independent evaluation of our board has been arranged and is underway now. We will report to you when this has been completed and the results delivered to the board. We will also, of course, keep you informed promptly of any matters of significance as they arise.

Key strategic challenges and opportunities

The need for regulatory reform remains our most significant and pressing challenge, and our greatest opportunity. Without reform, we risk becoming unable to deliver meaningful

outcomes that protect New Zealanders from harm or contribute to a sustainable media sector.

Local media, including news and current affairs, but also film, radio and television generally, play a critical role in developing and representing our national identity. Media has immense power to uplift and drive social cohesion, but also carries a risk of serious harm, which is why standards and regulation remain so important.

We are looking forward to supporting work to modernise our legislation, and we see this as an opportunity to make the regulatory landscape in the media sector modern, effective, and fit-for-purpose. Our purpose is more relevant than ever – the threats of mis- and disinformation, and decreasing trust in public media, have created an environment where the risk of harm from broadcasting (and media more generally) is heightened in new ways. However, we are not equipped with the legislative tools to effectively combat these risks.

A modern and effective Act could help create a fairer levy system, and a jurisdictional reach that reflects where people are getting their news and other content. It could also allow us to pursue new risk-mitigation strategies in the education and engagement space, promote media literacy and critical analysis, and do more to support public trust in the media, beyond the broadcasting sphere.

Although broadcaster levies have declined more slowly than forecast in the last three financial years, we do not expect this to continue. Ongoing announcements of losses, closures and cuts at some of our larger broadcasters are signs of the challenges the industry is facing. We therefore continue to make conservative forecasts about our future revenue.

Broadcasters are moving towards digital-only services and it may be a matter of only a few years before commercial linear broadcasting (especially television) becomes largely obsolete. In this scenario, levies would drastically diminish under our current model. Even if our jurisdiction is broadened to include digital news services, it is uncertain that levies would continue at their current levels – we know digital advertising does not draw the same level of revenue as traditional broadcast advertising, with >90% of digital advertising revenue from New Zealand going offshore.

Draft SPE enclosed

Our proposed Statement of Performance Expectations, enclosed with this letter, sets out our key priorities and targets for the coming year. We welcome your feedback and any questions you have (noting the final version will be subject to design formatting).

Yours sincerely



Susie Staley
Chair

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 July 2025 11:23 am
To: Stacey Wood; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Ministry for Culture and Heritage staff
Subject: RE: Heads up - queries about BSA jurisdiction

Kia ora Stacey

Thanks for the update – greatly appreciated.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]

From: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 July 2025 2:18 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mch.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mch.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mch.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mch.govt.nz>
Subject: Heads up - queries about BSA jurisdiction

Kia ora e hoa mā

Just letting you know we've had a couple of queries this week about the BSA's jurisdiction over online radio and specifically The Platform. These have come from Steven Price (media lawyer/teaching fellow at VUW) and Ani O'Brien (former employee of The Platform).

We do get these enquiries from time to time, and direct people to our 2019/20 review and subsequent letter to stakeholders (attached for reference) – these are both available on our website, so nothing new. Our position hasn't changed since the 2020 letter, with reg reform still on the cards.

Just sharing since both of these enquirers do have somewhat of a public presence, so there's a chance there may be some commentary. Unsure if there's been anything on The Platform to spark two enquiries in the last week.

Copying in the policy gang since we were discussing this topic recently.

Any questions, just let me know.

Stacey

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive



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[REDACTED]

From: Stacey Wood
Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2025 9:56 am
To: Stacey Wood
Subject: File notes - 13/10/25

11am: Called Susie, discussed timing of no surprises heads up to MCH. Agreed to make call today (ahead of decision going out tomorrow a.m.) in case any impending announcements about media reform coming, and to give time for appropriate notifications.

11:45am – text message to Brendan Gage to see if he is available today

2pm – called Cara Palmer-Oldcorn, no reply – text message after saying she’ll call at 3-ish

Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

3pm: spoke to Cara – she is going to notify [REDACTED] – new private sec for media in Min’s office as of last Thursday.

Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

3:30pm – [REDACTED] called, relayed same information as to Cara

4:45pm – Brendan Gage called, relayed same information as to [REDACTED] and Cara

Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive



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[REDACTED]

From: Stacey Wood
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2025 9:16 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting request from Minister - 5 November 2025

Absolutely – I'll put this in my diary. Let me know if there's any questions that come up in the meantime.

Stacey

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2025 9:06 am
To: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Subject: Meeting request from Minister - 5 November 2025

Kia ora Stacey –

I'm reaching out to invite you to a meeting with Minister Paul Goldsmith on Wednesday 5 November 2025, 5pm – 5.30pm, if possible.

The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the current case re: BSA / The Platform – the Minister would like the BSA to explain its position, for his clarity.

Does that time work for you?

Any issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to call ([REDACTED]).

Thanks heaps,



[REDACTED] | Private Secretary (Media and Communications)
Office of Hon Paul Goldsmith | Office of Parliamentary Under-Secretary Jenny Marcroft MP
Minister for Media and Communications | Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Media and Communications
M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

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[REDACTED]

From: Stacey Wood
Sent: Tuesday, 9 December 2025 4:32 pm
To: Stacey Wood
Subject: File note - 9 December 2025

Brendan Gage, 4pm
Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary
[REDACTED], 4.25pm

Advised both that the RCR intervention decision was likely to be published tomorrow along with our legal advice. Advised still subject to final board sign-off so can't send through yet, but will do so in the morning (or let them know if anything changes and release is delayed). Explained what RCR's application meant, and that this is not the final decision on jurisdiction.

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive



M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz
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[REDACTED]

From: Stacey Wood
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 11:14 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Ministry for Culture and Heritage staff member
Subject: Embargoed until midday - BSA documents for release
Attachments: WK Interlocutory Decision.pdf; 20251208 Lowndes Jordan advice.pdf

Kia ora [REDACTED] Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

This will be going out publicly in about an hour anyway, but doing my best to give you some time to look it over beforehand – as discussed yesterday afternoon. Media release below and relevant documents attached. Any questions, just let me know.

Stacey

BSA allows RCR to submit on jurisdiction decision, publishes legal advice

The Broadcasting Standards Authority has agreed to allow Reality Check Radio to make submissions on the Authority's jurisdiction over a complaint about online content transmitted by The Platform.

Background

In October the BSA issued a provisional ruling with its view that it has jurisdiction to determine the complaint. The complaint about The Platform was the first received by the BSA that meets the terms of its [2020 policy about online broadcasters](#) and the Broadcasting Act's requirements for referral of formal complaints to the Authority.

The BSA has not yet made a final decision on jurisdiction or considered the substance of the complaint.

Application by RCR

NZ Media Holdings 2023 Ltd, trading as Reality Check Radio (RCR), has applied to intervene, make submissions and be heard in the proceedings about jurisdiction. It did so on the grounds that it is affected by the outcome as a provider also conveying content over the internet, and it believed the decision would significantly impact its business.

The BSA has granted RCR leave to make written submissions, limited to the BSA's jurisdiction in the current complaint about The Platform. The Platform and the complainant will then have an opportunity to respond with any further submissions before the final decision is made on jurisdiction. This will happen in the new year, balancing the need for efficiency with the interests of natural justice and allowing the parties sufficient time to make their submissions.

Authority's release of information

Recognising the public interest in this issue, and to enable informed discussion, the BSA is today also publishing a legal opinion it has shared with the parties to the complaint (and RCR). This outlines the basis for the BSA's view that The Platform is a broadcaster, as defined by the Broadcasting Act. The BSA will consider this opinion, along with the parties' submissions, in reaching its decision on jurisdiction.

In publishing this information, the BSA is departing from its usual policy of not providing public information or comment about complaints while they are under consideration. The BSA will not be making any other public comment about the complaint while it is being considered.

ENDS

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive



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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 11:19 am
To: Stacey Wood
Subject: RE: Embargoed until midday - BSA documents for release

Kia ora Stacey –

Thank you for this. Will come back to you if MO have any questions.

Thanks heaps,
[REDACTED] Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

From: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2025 11:14 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mch.govt.nz>
Subject: Embargoed until midday - BSA documents for release

Kia ora [REDACTED] Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

This will be going out publicly in about an hour anyway, but doing my best to give you some time to look it over beforehand – as discussed yesterday afternoon. Media release below and relevant documents attached. Any questions, just let me know.

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In publishing this information, the BSA is departing from its usual policy of not providing public information or comment about complaints while they are under consideration. The BSA will not be making any other public comment about the complaint while it is being considered.

ENDS

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive



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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 8:44 am
To: Stacey Wood
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media tomorrow re BSA

Kia ora Stacey -

Thanks for the heads up, I let the Office know early this morning, so I imagine they tuned in!

Will let you know if there any questions that arise.

Thanks heaps,

[REDACTED] Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

-----Original Message-----

From: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 8:45 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@mch.govt.nz>
Subject: Media tomorrow re BSA

Kia ora [REDACTED] Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

The Herald is running a story tomorrow, based on the Select Committee report from our review hearing last year. I believe it will just be traversing ground already covered in terms of our consistent calls for regulatory reform, falling levies, the jurisdiction question etc. NewstalkZB has asked me to go on with Mike Hosking in the morning to talk about it. Again, will be sticking to our existing messaging, but giving you a heads up in case there is any follow up.

Stacey

Sent from my iPhone

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:40 pm
To: Stacey Wood
Subject: RE: BSA Meeting with Hon Goldsmith, date and time change

Thanks Stacey, really appreciate it.



[REDACTED] | Private Secretary (Media and Communications)
Office of Hon Paul Goldsmith | Office of Parliamentary Under-Secretary Jenny Marcroft MP
Minister for Media and Communications | Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Media and Communications
M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

From: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 3:37 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: BSA Meeting with Hon Goldsmith, date and time change

In confidence – it is likely to go out on 31 March to the parties, under 24-hour embargo, so will be published on 1 April. I will confirm that timing and/or any changes to it as we get closer to the date though. The parties have been notified today of this likely release date, in accordance with our usual policy.

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 1:58 pm
To: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: BSA Meeting with Hon Goldsmith, date and time change

Brilliant, thank Stacey!

Does BSA have a timeframe of when the decision from Mondays meeting is to be released?

I've passed on your comment that it would be roughly two weeks post-decision that affected parties would be notified – are you able to share what date that would be?

Thanks heaps,



[REDACTED] | Private Secretary (Media and Communications)
Office of Hon Paul Goldsmith | Office of Parliamentary Under-Secretary Jenny Marcroft MP
Minister for Media and Communications | Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Media and Communications
M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

From: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 March 2026 12:27 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: BSA Meeting with Hon Goldsmith, date and time change

Kia ora [REDACTED] – this timing works for us. Thank you.

Stacey

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 9 March 2026 4:10 pm
To: Stacey Wood <[REDACTED]@bsa.govt.nz>
Subject: BSA Meeting with Hon Goldsmith, date and time change

Kia ora Stacey –

Thanks for your time on the phone before.

As discussed, the Minister has had to rejig his Thursday quite a bit, so we need to move the meeting currently booked for Thursday 12 March.

An alternative date that I have is **Thursday 2 April, 11.30am – 12.00pm**. Would this work for you?

Please note, dependant on the outcome of upcoming decisions, a more urgent date for this meeting may be requested.

Let me know how you're placed.

Thanks heaps,



[REDACTED] **I Private Secretary (Media and Communications)**
Office of Hon Paul Goldsmith | Office of Parliamentary Under-Secretary Jenny Marcroft MP
Minister for Media and Communications | Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for
Media and Communications
M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

[REDACTED]

From: Stacey Wood
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2026 9:20 am
To: Stacey Wood
Cc: Helen Cruse; Pete Barnao
Subject: File note - call from [REDACTED] (Minister's office)

Minister for Media and Communications' Private Secretary

[REDACTED] called to check timeline for decision release (I had signalled earlier, under no surprises, that this was likely date to go to parties).

I confirmed decision going to parties this morning under 24-hour embargo, with publication tomorrow – subject to any breach of embargo, in which case it may be published earlier.

Stacey Wood ([she/her](#))

Chief Executive



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Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



03 MAR 2026

Susie Staley
Chair
Broadcasting Standards Authority
[REDACTED]

Dear Susie

2026/27 Expectations for the Broadcasting Standards Authority

This letter outlines the Government's 2026/27 priorities, and my governance expectations for the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA). I ask that you and the Board consider these expectations as you develop your 2026/27 Statement of Performance Expectations, and other strategic accountability documentation.

Delivery of priorities

The Government is committed to driving economic growth and boosting productivity to create more opportunities for New Zealanders. It is focussed on restoring discipline in public spending by sharpening the efficiency and effectiveness of the public service and government-funded services. This commitment shows through the *Enduring Letter of Expectations* (issued to statutory Crown entities in April 2024)¹.

I expect boards to work alongside stakeholders and build connections to focus resources, minimise costs, and deliver improved performance. I expect you to carefully review your core functions to eliminate any spending not directly related to them and to ensure you have robust performance measures that the Ministry for Culture and Heritage can monitor your progress towards. These measures should tell a compelling story of the impact your organisation is making in our communities and in the media sector.

There are significant well-documented challenges facing the media sector. My priorities for the Media and Communications portfolio are to promote good governance, modernise existing broadcasting legislation, and to improve audience reach, trust and transparency of our Crown entities.

Specific Expectations for the BSA

I acknowledge the challenges that the BSA faces operating in an out-dated regulatory environment. It remains my intention to modernise New Zealand's media regulation, with progress this Parliamentary term.

¹ <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/ELOE24-FINAL-signed-Enduring-Letter-of-Expectation-to-Crown-Entity-Chairs-Apr24-2.pdf>

In 2026/27 as the Broadcasting Standards Authority delivers its core activities, I expect it to:

- continue to operate efficiently and effectively, seeking operational improvements wherever possible, and to meet performance plan obligations including addressing cost pressures from decreasing levy revenue;
- maintain functions around education and research, related to media standards, and work with the industry to develop and oversee codes of practice; and
- support the Ministry to undertake policy work on strategy, legislative and regulatory reform, as appropriate.

Governance Expectations

Strong board governance is critical to the performance and success of Crown entities. I therefore reiterate my expectation that all board members fully adhere to the *Code of Conduct for Crown Entity Board Members*, for new members to attend Ministry-led board member inductions, as well as appropriate entity-led inductions to their role; and that board members actively engage in ongoing development to enhance their governance capability. Most importantly, the Board and the BSA should adhere to the 'no surprises' principle, particularly where these matters may be controversial or the subject of public debate.

While the Board has the most immediate and direct responsibility for monitoring BSA's performance, I expect it to continue to provide the Ministry, as my agent, with quarterly information on performance against expectations, delivery against performance targets, and timely information on risks and opportunities.

I expect the Board to continue to support the Ministry with Performance Plan processes, as outlined in CO (24) 04. In doing so, the Board should be prepared to exercise fiscal prudence to demonstrate how it will achieve a sustainable fiscal outlook and deliver efficient, effective and responsive public service within baselines.

Thank you for the Board evaluation completed in August 2025. I note the Board's focus on remaining relevant amid shifting media habits and increasing societal polarisation. The evaluation highlighted key strengths, including your leadership as Chair, the strong collective skillset of the four-member Board, and the positive culture being nurtured. It also identified areas for improvement, such as strengthening structured professional development for members, improving the quality of material provided by management, and ensuring decisions consistently reference strategy and purpose.

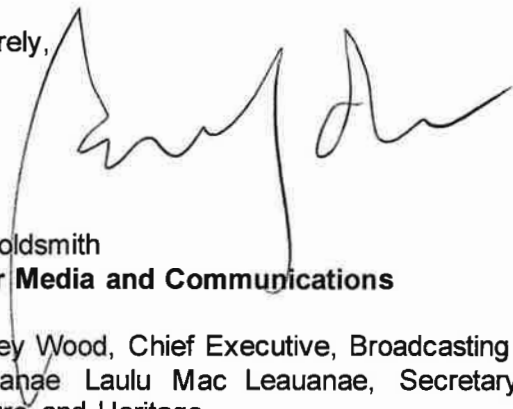
I expect your next annual Board evaluation to be completed and reported to me by 1 December 2026. This will support the Board in realising its full potential, driving improved performance, and informing my future appointment decisions. I look forward to seeing progress on the areas identified for improvement.

Next steps

I invite you to respond to this letter outlining how you intend to respond to the Government's priorities and my expectations when you provide me your draft 2026/27 *Statement of Expectations* for comment by 30 April 2026.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Board and BSA staff for all your hard work, and I look forward to meeting with you regularly to discuss progress on supporting the Government's priorities and my specific expectations.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Media and Communications

- cc Stacey Wood, Chief Executive, Broadcasting Standards Authority
- cc Leauanae Laulu Mac Leauanae, Secretary and Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage

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