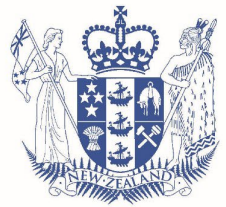


Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Pacific Peoples
Minister for the Public Service and Digitising Government
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



5 May 2026

Stephanie Mudgeway

fyi-request-34496-daf293ed@requests.fyi.org.nz

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request, received on 15 April 2026. You requested:

"This request concerns the sequence of events between the Broadcasting Standards Authority's jurisdiction decision regarding The Platform and the Government's subsequent move toward abolishing the BSA, and in particular whether that decision was influenced by Sean Plunket, The Platform, or parties associated with them.

I request:

1. All correspondence (including emails, letters, text messages, and records of phone calls or meetings) between the Minister or his office and the following parties, from 1 January 2024 to the date this request is received, on any matter relating to the BSA, The Platform, online broadcasting regulation, or the abolition of the BSA:

- a. Sean Plunket, or any employee, representative, funder, investor, or associate of The Platform;*
- b. Winston Peters or his office;*
- c. Any Act or New Zealand First party representative or staff member;*
- d. Any lobbyist, lawyer, public relations professional, or third party acting on behalf of The Platform or its backers;*
- e. Any media owner, editor, or executive with a financial or commercial interest in the BSA's abolition.*

2. All ministerial briefings, Cabinet papers, regulatory impact assessments, or policy advice received by the Minister relating to:

- a. Abolishing or disestablishing the BSA;*
- b. Replacing the BSA with a self-regulatory or Media Council-style arrangement;*
- c. The BSA's jurisdiction over online broadcasters, including The Platform;*
- d. The legal or constitutional implications of abolishing the BSA in response to a specific regulatory decision.*

3. All diary entries, calendar records, or records of meetings or phone calls involving the Minister or his staff and:

- a. Sean Plunket or any representative or associate of The Platform;*

b. Any funder, investor, or backer of The Platform; from 1 January 2024 to the date this request is received.

4. Any records showing the sequence and timing of:

a. The BSA's jurisdiction decision regarding The Platform;

b. Any subsequent contact between The Platform or its associates and the Minister's office;

c. The Minister's subsequent public statements describing himself as "tempted" to scrap the BSA, and then indicating scrapping was his preferred option.

5. Any records in which the Minister or his office discussed, internally or with third parties, abolishing the BSA as a means of resolving the jurisdiction dispute over The Platform, or preventing the BSA from further considering the complaint against Sean Plunket.

6. Any records relating to the funders, investors, or financial backers of The Platform that were received by or held in the Minister's office.

7. Any Cabinet or coalition discussions regarding the abolition of the BSA, including any records of New Zealand First or Act raising the matter in a coalition or confidence-and-supply context."

Parts 1 (a) and 4(b) of your request

My press secretary fields calls from media outlets on a regular basis, including the Platform. I am aware of a number of phone calls made from the Platform to my press secretary seeking comment and requesting interviews on the jurisdiction decision made by the BSA. I have made public comments on this, being that the matter is operational in nature, and remains the responsibility of the Board of the BSA. My press secretary reiterated these comments.

Parts 1(b), 1(c), and 7 are not official information

Parts 1(b), 1(c), and 7 relating to Coalition arrangements are not considered requests for official information as set out under section 2 of the OIA, therefore these parts of your request are refused.

Parts 1(d), 1(e), 3(b) and 6 lack due particularity

Parts 1(d), 1(e), 3(b) and 6 relating to *backers, funders and investors* of The Platform. We do not hold a list of *backers, funder or investors* for The Platform. Therefore, due to a lack of specificity and due particularity as required under section 12(2) of the OIA, this part is refused.

Parts 2(a), 2(b) and 2(d) are under active consideration

Parts 2(a), 2(b) and 2(d) relating to advice on the abolition or disestablishment of the BSA are withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, which protects the orderly and effective conduct of executive government decision making processes while decisions are active.

Part 3(a) is publicly available

My diary is publicly available and proactively released on the on the Beehive website

here: [Ministerial Diaries](#). Your request for diary entries is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as they are already publicly available.

Part 1(a) covers the phone call portion of Part 3(a) of your request.

Part 4(a) does not exist

Searches have been completed of the relevant Information Management Systems for a record showing the sequence and timing of the BSA's jurisdiction decision regarding the Platform, and no record has been identified. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, that the information doesn't exist.

Parts 4(c) and 5 are Free and Frank

Parts 4(c) and 5, relating to advice on public statements and internal discussions are withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Goldsmith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Media and Communications

