



6 December 2023

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Taxpayer's Union
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Tēnā koe ██████████

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 14 November 2023.

You have requested information in relation to the following:

1. "Patrick Gower On...":

- *Please provide a detailed breakdown of any completed spending related to this project.*
- *The funding breakdown and name for each of the two Investigations.*
- *What were the specific criteria for selecting this project for funding? And please provide the final evaluation for the project proposal.*

2. Chinese Journalism Cadetship Programme (Extension):

- *What is the explicit purpose of this funding? Please include any objectives, expected outcomes, or performance measures associated with this programme.*
- *Provide a detailed breakdown of the allocated funding for this programme.*
- *Please explain the decision-making process and justification for funding this programme, especially in terms of its contribution to New Zealand journalism and media landscape.*

3. Feature Animation 2 Funding:

- *What is the intended purpose of this funding/what did this level of funding pay for? Include any targeted goals, audience reach, or anticipated impacts.*

4. Internal Discussions and Objections:

- *Were there any internal discussions or memos that raised concerns or objections regarding the funding for any of the aforementioned projects? If so, please provide relevant documentation.*

Please see below our response:

1. Patrick Gower On

As per the latest cost report supplied by the producer of this programme to NZ On Air on 26 June 2023, \$321,115 has been spent of the \$600,914 production budget.

NZ On Air has decided to withhold this cost report under s9(2)(B)(ii) of the OIA however in meeting the aims of your request, we can confirm that this includes spending in the following areas:

- Producers, Director, Presenter: \$91,400 at the time of the report
- Production staff and crew, locations, travel and equipment: \$181,978 at the time of the report
- Library footage, picture post-production and post-production labour: \$41,319 at the time of the report
- Marketing and Administration: \$728 at the time of the report
- Legal, Insurance and Fees: \$5,687 at the time of the report

NZ On Air's funding in respect of these two programmes (*On Vaping* and *On The Royals*) was funded through one funding application and contract, and the production budget combines costs associated with the production and release of both programmes, similar to that of a television or online series.

This application was assessed against NZ On Air's [Investment Principles](#) and the November 2022 round guidelines (attached). Please find attached a copy of the funding recommendation paper submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee in respect of the programme.

2. Chinese Journalism Cadetship Programme (Extension)

Please find attached the guidelines for PIJF Round 7, in which this application was submitted. NZ On Air was specifically looking to support and fund training programmes that met immediate and specific needs especially in the provision of Māori, Pacific and diverse voice journalists, where there are few if any alternative training paths.

The funding committed to this programme covers the following areas:

- Salaries of cadets: up to \$100,000
- Mentorship costs: \$20,200
- External training: \$16,000
- Equipment hire and overheads: \$4,880

The decision-making process and steps in respect of all applications submitted to the PIJF can be found on our website [here](#). Please also find attached the funding recommendation paper that was submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee in respect of the cadetship programme.

All contracted PIJF projects are required to provide regular progress and cost reports. The information required under these reports is publicly available on the Journalism Funding section of our website.

3. Feature Animation Project 2

Please find attached the funding recommendation paper submitted to our Staff Investment Committee in respect of *Feature Animation 2*.

NZ On Air was not the sole funder of this project - Te Māngai Pāho and the NZ Film Commission also contributed funding to this project. As such, we cannot confirm exactly where NZ On Air's funding was applied.

Our funding was intended to cover the following budget areas:

- Above the Line Costs (Producer, Executive Producers, Music and Dialogue Translations, Musical Directors, Voice Cast)
- Production Management, Casting and Cultural Consultants
- Locations, Travel, Accommodation, Catering (studio hire, vehicle hire, domestic/international travel and accommodation, mileage)
- Production/Studio Costs
- Post-production (recording studio, mixing, edit suite)
- Legals and Insurance
- Marketing and Publicity
- Contingency and Production Company Overhead

4. Internal Discussions and Objections

All three of these projects were considered and discussed by our Staff Investment Committee, as are all funding applications. You have been provided with the funding recommendation paper submitted in respect of the three funding applications your request relates to.


No objections or concerns were raised by any member of the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee when making these funding decisions.

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