



15 May 2024

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 16 April 2024.

You have requested:

I see that NZ on Air announced in September 2022 that Te Korimako o Taranaki, an online radio station in New Plymouth, had been granted up to \$395,000 to fund "a nine-month local journalism cadetship programme to nurture five Māori journalists with the aim of growing the Māori journalism sector more broadly, especially in the Taranaki region."

On November 28, 2022, the station advertised on Facebook for suitable candidates for what was described as "a seven-month, full-time, paid te reo Māori journalism training programme [which] will cover accommodation and travel for the cadets." The course was scheduled to run from December 12, 2022, to 30 June, 2023.

Can you tell me:

1. Did the PIJF pay for the cadets' accommodation and travel?
2. If it did, how much was spent on accommodation and travel?
3. How many cadets were hired under the scheme? (I saw a reference in March 2023 to four cadets having been employed.)
4. How much were the cadets individually paid for their training?
5. How much did the programme cost NZ on Air / PIJF in total? (ie How much was drawn down for the entire programme?)

Please find responses to each of your questions below:

We understand your request refers to the Te la Ka Oho journalism cadetship programme NZ On Air funded under the Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF) in September 2022.

1. The funding committed to this programme intended to cover travel and accommodation up to \$120,000. Covering travel and accommodation through the PIJF has been the standard case for

cadetship initiatives where it is relevant to journalism training and for journalist roles where travel and accommodation are necessary for their work.

2. As per the latest cost reported supplied by the funding recipient to NZ On Air on 13 December 2023, \$48,124 has been spent on travel and accommodation.
3. A total of four cadets have been trained through the programme. Please note our funding has been reduced from \$395,000 to up to \$371,487, which is reflected on our website.
4. NZ On Air has decided to withhold the individual salaries of each cadet under s9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA however in meeting the aims of your request, we can confirm that the funding committed to this programme covers up to \$147,987 for the salaries of cadets. The funding recipient is yet to submit their final invoice and cost report. However, we can confirm that at the time of this request, \$278,610 of NZ On Air funding has been drawn down for the programme.

For context it is worth noting that the training provided by this programme is not available through any of the current New Zealand journalism education providers as none provide Māori or Te Reo Māori journalism training. As such the bespoke and regional nature of this training is reflected in the costs. Travel costs included the ability to give cadets training at Whakaata Māori in Auckland to ensure they had a wide journalism experience. The 'on the job' aspect of this training meant that cadets contributed content/stories to Te Korimako, the Māori Regional News Hub and Whakaata Māori.

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