



Office of Hon Amy Adams

Member of Parliament for Selwyn

Minister of Justice

Minister for Courts

Minister of Broadcasting

Minister for Communications

2 DEC 2015

Miriam Dean
Chair
NZ On Air
PO Box 9744
WELLINGTON

Dear Ms Dean

LETTER OF EXPECTATIONS FOR 2016/17

This letter sets out my expectations for the Broadcasting Commission (NZ On Air) in 2016/17. Its purpose is to assist the Board to develop its 2016/17 Statement of Performance Expectations and other strategic planning documents.

But first, I wish to acknowledge NZ On Air's success in 2015/16, in achieving, and often exceeding, its targets for the year within the constraints of static funding at the same time enjoying high levels of public appreciation of its role and the projects NZ On Air supports.

Before outlining my specific expectations for NZ On Air, the National-led Government has the following expectations for all Crown-funded agencies in 2016/17:

Performance improvement – the Government expects Crown-funded agencies to continue looking for ways to deliver higher-quality public services and value-for-money.

Focus on achieving results – agencies should be able to demonstrate what difference they are making to their customers and stakeholders. I acknowledge that you have been making ongoing efforts to improve the quality of performance measures included in your public accountability documents and I would encourage you to continue looking at ways to better demonstrate the effectiveness of NZ On Air's interventions. Please continue to work with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage on these developments.

Collaboration – agencies should continue to look for new and better ways of working together. Agencies should have a clear strategy for partnering to improve sector outcomes, and putting the customer – not agency boundaries – first in service design. As you know, Ministers are committed to strengthening the strategic relationship

between NZ On Air and the New Zealand Film Commission and recent cross-agency board appointments are a result of that commitment.

Openness and transparency – the Government expects Crown-funded agencies to publish non-sensitive performance information - including this letter - on your website in a timely manner¹. I know that NZ On Air already publishes its six-monthly reports and other information on its website and before publishing any new information of this nature I expect to be informed, consistent with the ‘no surprises’ policy.

I am not expecting changes to NZ On Air’s current Statement of Intent and its strategic priorities during 2016/17. Accordingly, I would expect NZ On Air to continue to deliver outcomes within its existing funding allocation. I acknowledge this will mean making choices about where NZ On Air will place emphasis, particularly in light of changing audience expectations and digitisation, and I trust that you will keep me informed of any significant changes to funding policy.

Following on from your reviews of regional television and children’s content funding earlier this year, I would ask you to keep me informed of your approach once board decisions have been made in early 2016, and I would like to reiterate my expectation that funding will focus on content where an appropriate distribution channel is available.

I would also request that you continue to work with MCH to ensure that the National Pacific Radio Trust is fully meeting its accountability obligations as an entity under Schedule 4 of the Public Finance Act.

As always, I ask you to maintain a “no surprises” approach to briefing me, and to work constructively with the Ministry in its Vote performance monitoring role and in any policy issues that may arise. You should ensure that the Ministry is engaged when the Board is considering significant issues that may materially affect your plans and operations.

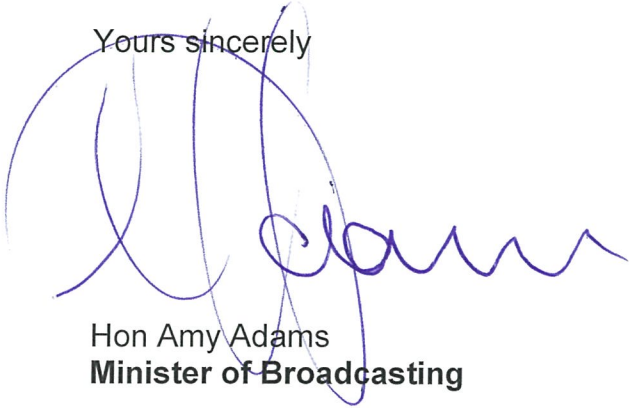
I appreciate the advice you have provided to my officials to date in respect of content regulation under the Government’s Convergence Review work programme and I would ask that you continue to engage on these issues as the review continues.

You may wish to discuss my expectations with MCH officials after receiving this letter. Should it be required, my office will arrange a meeting for us to discuss my expectations further.

¹ This was an enduring expectation first communicated to statutory Crown entities by the Ministers of Finance and State Services in July 2012 – refer to <https://www.ssc.govt.nz/expectations-letter-crown-entities-july12>

I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board over the coming year, and to seeing the expectations outlined above reflected in your planning documents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amy Adams', written over the words 'Yours sincerely'.

Hon Amy Adams
Minister of Broadcasting

cc Jane Wrightson
Chief Executive
NZ On Air
PO Box 9744
WELLINGTON