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2 May 2023

██████████
Taxpayer's Union
████████████████████

Tēnā koe ██████████

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 3 April 2023.

You have requested:

1. *In July 2021, NZ On Air provided 'Stuff' \$353,430 of funding for "cultural competency course for Stuff journalists." This was as part of "multi-lens journalism training."*
 - a. *Who/What organisation ran this course?*
 - b. *How many training sessions have subsequently been run by 'Stuff' employees (who attended the original course) for other organisations?*
 - c. *Please provide a breakdown of costs relating to this course. Why did it cost so much?*
 - d. *Why did NZ On Air decide to fund this course?*
 - e. *What was taught as part of this course? Please provide us with the course materials.*
 - f. *How long did the course last?*

2. *In December 2021, NZ On Air provided \$61,725 to 'Allied Press' for a 'Cultural Competency and Commissioning Project'.*
 - a. *What was the reason behind this funding decision?*
 - b. *Please provide the Terms of Reference for the project.*
 - c. *When did the project conclude?*
 - d. *Please provide a breakdown of what NZ On Air specifically funded for this project.*
 - e. *What are the aims of the project?*

Please see our response below:

1. Stuff – Multi-Lens Journalism Training

- a. This project is still in development and has not been delivered. However, our understanding at the time of your request is that the course will be designed inhouse at Stuff with external collaboration, research and support from such contributors as SHORE and Whariki Research Centre, the Massey University Research Centre and other external panellists.
- b. As the project is still live, NZ On Air does not currently possess any documentation that provides this information. We decline this part of your request under s 18(g) as the information requested is not held by NZ On Air and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation.
- c. Stuff has not drawn down on the full NZ On Air funding allocation as the work is still in development. Given this project is still live we will not be revealing the proposed budget under Section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA. However, the costs submitted at the time of application covered expenditure relating to:
 - i. module development, design and presentation,
 - ii. travel and accommodation costs,
 - iii. hospitality costs,
 - iv. video production for video modules, and
 - v. costs associated with the setup and running of the industry hui that forms part of this application.
- d. Please find attached an excerpt from the funding recommendation paper submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee in June of 2021 that discusses this application (Attachment 1). The project was funded under the Industry Development Funding. Our eligibility and assessment criteria are set out in our [PIJF General Guidelines](#).
- e. Please refer to our answers at paragraph 1a and 1d. We therefore decline this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA.
- f. As the project has not completed, we cannot provide you with this information as at the time of your request.

2. Allied Press – Cultural Competency and Commissioning Project

- a. Please find attached an excerpt from the funding recommendation paper submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee in October of 2021 that discusses this application (Attachment 2). This project was also funded through our Industry Development Funding and assessed against the criteria in our [PIJF General Guidelines](#).
- b. Please refer to our answer under paragraph 2a. Given, to the best of our knowledge at the time of your request, this project remains live we decline to release the proposal submitted to NZ On Air under s9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA.
- c. Whilst this project has been contracted, NZ On Air does not currently have any documentation that contains this information. We therefore decline this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA.
- d. Based on the application and the information provided under paragraph 2a, funding will be provided to cover the costs associated with a mixture of 20 cultural competency and Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshops, which includes workshop personnel, materials, and room hire/equipment. Additionally, a portion of funding is going towards the creation of written content for Allied Press.
- e. Please refer to our answer under paragraph 2a.

Once both projects have concluded we will be happy to reconsider your request and may be in a position to release some of the information we have redacted or withheld. Please contact us again at that time with a new request.

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

Attachments:

1. An excerpt of the funding recommendation paper submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee on 28 June 2021 in relation to the Multi-Lens Journalism Training application made by Stuff.
2. An excerpt of the funding recommendation paper submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee on 17 November 2021 in relation to the Cultural Competency and Commissioning Project application made by Allied Press.