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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") transferred to us from the Department of Internal Affairs on 27 April 2023.

You have requested:

1. *Does NZ On Air decide on which media groups/companies/organisations receive government funding?*
2. *If not NZ On Air who decides on which media groups/companies/organisations who receives funding, then who does?*
3. *Which groups/companies/organisations receive and have received any amount of funding since 1st January 2017, and what amount did each of them receive in each year 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022?*
4. *Is there a set of parameters/policies/rules/standards that the media groups/companies/organisations have to follow and/or adhere to in which to receive and continue or not to receive government funding?*
5. *If there is such an influencing set of funding standards as mentioned in Question 4, who or what department decides/sets/controls those standards?*
6. *If there is such a set of funding controlling standards as per mentioned in Questions 4 and 5, is it possible that any particular funded media outlet has it's funding removed or reduced if they don't follow the parameters of the above mentioned standards?*
7. *How does a media startup outlet apply for and receive funding?*
8. *If a fledgling media startup outlet is able to apply for funding as per referred to in Question 7, does that outlet have to "prove" that it will follow the [possible] funding deciding parameters as mentioned in Questions 4, 5 and 6?*
9. *If a startup media outlet applying for government funding does have to "prove" that it will adhere to a set of [possible] funding justifying parameters as referred to in Questions 4 to 7, what individual and/or individuals and/or department(s) or "advisory panel" (or referred by any other titles(s)); ultimately decides, constructs and implements those parameters mentioned in Questions 4 to 6?*

10. Does the [possible] funding content controlling group mentioned in Question 9 have a specified "list" of accepted or unacceptable topics/subjects/ideologies and/or individuals/guests?
11. If a [possible] funding controlling group as per referred to in Question 9, does have a [possible] list of accepted or unacceptable funding deciding topics/subjects/ideologies political or otherwise as mentioned in Question 10, what is that list/set of topics/ parameters?
12. If there is a [possible] funding deciding parameters list, if media reporting and journalism is supposed to be impartial; why is there then such a list?

Please see our response below:

1. We are interpreting this question to mean government funding administered by NZ On Air and not by other government entities. Depending on the quantum of requested amount of funding, funding decisions are made by the NZ On Air Board, NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee or the Chief Executive. More information on how these decisions are made can be found on our website [here](#).
2. Please refer to our response under Paragraph 1.
3. This information is publicly available on our website via our [search function](#) or in the Funding tables in each year's Annual Report. [All Annual Reports are on our website](#). We decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(d\)](#) of the OIA.
4. To be eligible to have a funding application assessed, funding applicants must meet the relevant funding criteria. Further information on funding criteria for screen content can be found [here](#).

The terms and conditions under which funding is provided to successful funding applicants can be found in the funding agreement templates on our website. The most recent version of our funding agreement template for screen content can be found [here](#) on our website.

Please find attached PDF versions of our New Music Projects, New Music Singles and New Music Development funding agreement templates.

All criteria that is developed by NZ On Air for the purposes of funding is informed by our functions detailed under the [Broadcasting Act 1989](#).

Please see our funding strategy [here](#).

We partially decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(d\)](#) of the OIA as the information you have requested is publicly available.

5. NZ On Air's function is set out in Part 4 of the [Broadcasting Act 1989](#).

Informed by specific obligations under our governing legislation, NZ On Air funding policies and standards are the result of internal discussion amongst staff and the NZ On Air Board in addition to external consultation, discussions, and feedback where it is deemed necessary.

All successful applications must comply with either the [Broadcasting Standards](#) or the [New Zealand Media Council Principles](#).

Please also refer to our response at paragraph 1.

6. Please see our response at paragraph 4. The terms and conditions under which funding is provided to successful funding applicants can be found in the funding agreement templates on

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our website. We decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(d\)](#) of the OIA as the information you have requested is publicly available.


7. Please see our response at paragraph 4. Generally, 'start ups' will not be eligible for funding as they require a track record of and experience in creating content that has found an audience, or in the case of a platform, they need to demonstrate an existing audience of size commensurate with the funding being sought.
8. Please refer to our response at paragraph 7.
9. Please see our response at paragraph 5.
10. Recipients of NZ On Air funding for screen projects must agree to ensure the content they produce does not breach the Broadcasting Standards or, where applicable, the principles of the New Zealand Media Council. Beyond that, there is no 'list' of accepted or unaccepted topics/subjects/ideologies or individuals/guests that NZ On Air would require or prohibit. We decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(e\)](#) of the OIA.
11. Please note that under [Section 42](#) of the Broadcasting Act, NZ On Air is prohibited from giving any editorial direction to any successful funding applicant. We also note the restrictions placed on the Government of the day and Minister of Broadcasting and Media under [Section 44](#) of the Broadcasting Act.
12. Please refer to our response at paragraph 9. Additionally, we decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(e\)](#) of the OIA.
13. We decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(e\)](#) of the OIA.

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