

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations



21 May 2024

Dr. Ruth Harley, CNZM OBE
Chair
Broadcasting Commission
Ruth@ruthharley.com

Dear Ruth

Thank you for providing me with the Broadcasting Commission (NZ On Air) draft 2024-28 Statement of Intent (SOI) and draft 2024/25 Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE). I am pleased to see that the drafts meet the relevant legislative requirements of both the Crown Entities Act 2004 and NZ On Air's empowering legislation. I expect that throughout 2024/25 NZ On Air ensures that delivery against all strategies is consistent with the requirements of legislation to reflect and develop New Zealand identity and culture.

I note the contribution NZ On Air will be making in an ongoing challenging fiscal environment where I am asking entities to lift productivity, support economic growth and make improvements to government funded services, including through procurement which I expect to be focused on quality, while meeting Government procurement rules. I have noted specifically that NZ On Air has both acknowledged, and responded appropriately to, the changing operational context and Government expectations.

I am pleased to see that NZ On Air is planning to support innovation in the media sector and is contributing to the Government's priorities of building the economy through your flexible investment strategy. To state the obvious, New Zealanders have far greater choice available to them on screen and speakers than in the past. For local content to compete for attention, it has to meet higher expectations of quality. I ask NZ On Air to consider supporting higher quality content, rather than higher volumes. I would also like NZ On Air to consider including specific measures on audience engagement.

Thank you for your stated commitment to support my forthcoming reforms to modernise New Zealand's media legislation. I also appreciate that in the recent period of rapid change within the media sector, NZ On Air has proactively considered how to best support the local sector, and I acknowledge NZ On Air's ongoing commitment to support important factual content, including current affairs and journalism.

The SPE measures show your planned regular progress reporting against strategic priorities and core activities for 2024/25. The importance of quality research and data insights cannot be underestimated. I look forward to seeing your regular reports to maintain an understanding of progress being made.

I note that NZ On Air was forecasting a small deficit for 2024/25 however, I am informed that recent Government funding decisions will mitigate this deficit. I expect this will be confirmed in the final document, however, I urge you to continue to keep long-term sustainability in mind for future years.

I thank you, your Board, and NZ On Air for the efforts in preparing this draft SOI and SPE. I look forward to receiving the final version of the SOI and SPE before 30 June 2024.

Yours sincerely



Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Media and Communications

cc: Leauanae Lulu Mac Leauanae, Secretary & Chief Executive, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage
cc: Cameron Harland, Chief Executive, Broadcasting Commission