



22 November 2024

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act (“OIA”) dated 25 October 2024.

You have requested:

All the information held by NZ on Air concerning the funding of a proposed documentary or docudrama of the trial of Philip Polkinghorne, accused of murdering his wife Pauline Hanna in 2021. According to a report by RNZ on September 25 this year, a veteran documentary producer, Mark McNeill, received \$228,000 in funding from NZ on Air to make a three-episode series for “Three Now and Warner Bros. Discovery”. I can find no confirmation of this on your website.

Please see our response below:

To clarify, the project you are referring to in your request is called *P.I. Story*. You can find details about this project, including the amount of funding approved, the primary platform, number of episodes, and who received this funding via the search function on our website [here](#).

I have attached the requested information we are able to release:

- A copy of the funding recommendation paper submitted to the NZ On Air Staff Investment Committee in respect of the project.

The following redactions in these documents have been made:

- Details of stylistic/editorial treatment of the project and budget details under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA.

We have declined to release the funding proposal submitted to NZ On Air under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA as the project is still in progress and has not been released. We have also declined to release the budget under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA.

Once this project has been broadcast/released 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.

Connecting and reflecting Aotearoa

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.

Ngā manaakitanga,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Rasch', written in a cursive style.

Raewyn Rasch

HEAD OF OPERATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND CULTURE

KAIHAUTŪ NGĀ WHAKAHAERE, NGĀ RANGIPŪ MAHITAHĪ ME TE AHUREA