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11 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 13 October 2024.

You have requested:

1. *How much funding from NZOA did Stuff Circuit receive to produce their documentary 'False Profit'?*
2. *How much funding from NZOA did Stuff Circuit receive to produce their documentary 'Fire and Fury'?*
3. *We request to see the funding decision notes for EACH funding decision*
4. *We request to know the names of those who decided to approve funding for these projects*
5. *What funding did NZOA provide to any other media or production organisation to produce any type of material that involved the Covid-19 topic or who did documentaries on people involved in protest against the Government handling of Covid-19?*
6. *Who were these organisations and how much did they receive each?*

Please see our response below:

1. As per our response to your previous OIA request dated 22 August 2024, NZ On Air has provided funding to the Stuff Circuit Investigative team under the Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF) which covered the creation of audio-visual and written content. These applications were approved for funding through the [PIJF Funding Process](#) and the assessment criteria set out in the [PIJF General Guidelines](#). Given the nature of investigative current affairs, these topics were not provided at the time of application nor informed our funding decision.

The amount granted to Stuff and the intended Episodes and Duration for the funded content is [searchable](#) on our website. All PIJF-funded content must meet NZ On Air's [accreditation requirements](#) and content not featuring such accreditation is not NZ On Air or PIJF-funded content. While NZ On Air has provided funding to the Stuff Circuit Investigative team, under [Section 42 of the Broadcasting Act](#) we are prohibited from having any editorial control over the funded content. We decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(d\)](#) of the OIA as the information requested is publicly available.

2. Please see response at 1.

## Connecting and reflecting Aotearoa

3. As noted above, NZ On Air provided funding to the Stuff Circuit Investigative team for the creation of audio-visual and written content. NZ On Air has no information on the funding decisions regarding *False Profit* or *Fire and Fury* as it did not have any editorial input into the choice of these topics. We decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(d\)](#) of the OIA as the documents alleged to contain the information requested do not exist.
4. Please see response at 3. NZ On Air staff were not involved in the approval of these specific projects. We decline this part of your request under [Section 18\(d\)](#) of the OIA as the documents alleged to contain the information requested do not exist.
5. NZ On Air has not funded any content specifically on the protest against the Government handling of Covid-19. There is one project funded that involved Covid-19 information:
  - a. *The Whole Truth*, Stuff for Stuff.co.nz, up to \$591,465 – an animated fact-checking project designed to protect public health. Covid-19 information was included as part of this public health programme.
6. Please see response at 5.

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.

Ngā manaakitanga,



Raewyn Rasch

**HEAD OF OPERATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND CULTURE**  
**KAIHAUTŪ NGĀ WHAKAHAERE, NGĀ RANGIPŪ MAHITAHĪ ME TE AHUREA**