

31 May 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 8 May 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following information:

*I am seeking copies of the following briefings/documents under the Official Information Act:*

***BR23/088 Online news bill – approval for outstanding policy decisions***

***AM23/077 Minister Jackson meeting Minister of Finance***

### Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

| Date             | Briefing Number | Document Description                         |
|------------------|-----------------|--|
| 22 February 2023 | AM23/077        | Minister Jackson meeting Minister of Finance |

I have decided to release the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) – would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information

AM23/077 contains information relating to proposed RNZ funding decisions.

Following this, in April 2023 Minister Jackson announced an annual funding increase of \$25.7 million to ensure the financial sustainability of RNZ. This increase consists of \$12 million for RNZ to maintain public media services and \$12 million for digital transformation, strengthening public media outcomes and contributing to new audience-focused initiatives. In addition, a \$1.7 million increase towards AM radio transmission for broadcasting continuity in emergencies. You can read more about this funding increase at: <https://mch.govt.nz/funding-boost-deliver-world-class-public-media-all-new-zealanders>

### Information being withheld

There are additional documents covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

| Date             | Briefing Number | Document Description   | Decision                   |
|------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| 24 February 2023 | BR23/088        | Online News Bill – approval for outstanding policy decisions | Withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv) |


In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [oa@mch.govt.nz](mailto:oa@mch.govt.nz)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)



Emily Fabling

**Pou Mataaho o Te Aka - Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Sector Performance**