

10 February 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 23 January 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following information:

[A]ll correspondence between your offices and the mainstream media companies specifically relating to the \$55M [Public Interest Journalism Fund].

I am specifically interested in correspondence leading up to the launch of the fund, which outlines any terms and conditions for a media company to access the funding.

Manatū Taonga sought to clarify with you about your request on 26 and 30 January as well as 2 February, receiving clarification from you on 2 February 2023. The Ministry asked you confirm which media outlets you were interested in as it did not hold a list of "mainstream media". We also noted that the fund is administered by Irirangi te Motu New Zealand on Air.

In your clarification, you advised you were interested in the following media outlets: TV1, TV2, TV3, Mediaworks, NZ Herald. You also noted that you were interested in "any communication with the above media, in the 3 months leading up to the launch of the fund, and 3 months after the launch of the fund." Given your earlier request, we have interpreted your request for "any communication" to relate to communication about the *Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF)*.

In response, the Ministry undertook an email search with the following parameters:

Sent to/from: "@tvnz.co.nz" (which is the same email suffix for both TV1 and TV2), "@newshub.co.nz" (which is the email suffix for TV3 news), "@mediaworks.co.nz", "@nzherald.co.nz", "@discovery.com (the email suffix for TV3 employees)"

Keywords: PIJF" OR "Public Interest Journalism Fund"

Date range: 1/11/2020 - 1/5/2021 (three months either side of the announcement in February 2021).

The Ministry also searched our media log, which details every media query the Ministry has had. Finally, we consulted with those staff members who would be most likely to have engaged with the named organisations.


After undertaking these searches, Manatū Taonga has found no information relevant to your request. Therefore, your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts cannot be found.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oia@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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

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Emily Fabling

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

PROACTIVELY RELEASED