



27 August 2026



Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 4 August 2026.

You have requested:

Information relating to NZ On Air's decision to provide up to \$2.3 million in funding to South Pacific Pictures for the production of 160 episodes of Shortland Street.

- 1. The application submitted by South Pacific Pictures and/or TVNZ for funding for Shortland Street in 2027, including any supporting documents.*
- 2. All assessments, evaluations, recommendations, reports, briefing papers, meeting notes and other documents considered by NZ On Air in making its decision to fund the programme.*
- 3. Any correspondence between NZ On Air and South Pacific Pictures, TVNZ, or their representatives concerning the 2027 funding application, funding amount or decision.*
- 4. Any correspondence between NZ On Air and the Minister of Broadcasting and Media, the Minister's office, or officials at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage concerning the 2027 funding of Shortland Street.*
- 5. Any documents assessing or discussing the audience reach, cultural value, public value, commercial performance or other factors relied upon in determining that Shortland Street should continue to receive NZ On Air funding.*
- 6. Any documents discussing the impact of the Screen Production Rebate on the funding required for Shortland Street, including any assessment of the extent to which the rebate has reduced the amount of NZ On Air funding required to produce the programme.*

Please see our response below:

- 1. the application submitted by South Pacific Pictures and/or TVNZ for funding for Shortland Street in 2027, including any supporting documents.*

Due to the intellectual property contained in proposals and the commercial sensitivity of projects, NZ On Air does not release details of funded applications that are still in progress.

Given Shortland Street 2027 has not yet aired, we are withholding all application documents in full under section 9(2)(b) to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the producer who supplied the information.

2. *All assessments, evaluations, recommendations, reports, briefing papers, meeting notes and other documents considered by NZ On Air in making its decision to fund the programme.*

Please find attached the funding recommendation paper prepared for the NZ On Air Board in July 2027. We have made redactions under section 9(2)(b) and 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, and one line has been redacted under 9(2)(g) to protect the free and frank expression of opinion.

3. *Any correspondence between NZ On Air and South Pacific Pictures, TVNZ, or their representatives concerning the 2027 funding application, funding amount or decision.*

Please find attached four email communications between NZ On Air and South Pacific Pictures, TVNZ, or their representatives concerning the 2027 funding application, funding amount or decision. We have made redactions under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA. Four other emails between NZ On Air, the applicant and platform have been withheld in full under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g).

4. *Any correspondence between NZ On Air and the Minister of Broadcasting and Media, the Minister's office, or officials at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage concerning the 2027 funding of Shortland Street.*

NZ On Air does not have any correspondence with *the Minister of Broadcasting and Media, the Minister's office, or officials at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage concerning the 2027 funding of Shortland Street*. We therefore decline this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the document or data does not exist.

5. *Any documents assessing or discussing the audience reach, cultural value, public value, commercial performance or other factors relied upon in determining that Shortland Street should continue to receive NZ On Air funding.*

Please see our response at 2.

6. *Any documents discussing the impact of the Screen Production Rebate on the funding required for Shortland Street, including any assessment of the extent to which the rebate has reduced the amount of NZ On Air funding required to produce the programme.*

Please see our response at 2.

Once this project has been broadcast/released, we will be happy to reconsider your request and may be able 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.

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

Attachments:

- 5.7 Board ppr_Scripted
- Emails 1-3
- Email 4 - 260309_TVNZ – NZ ON Air meeting Agenda