

25 October 2019

[REDACTED] Productions

by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 19 October 2019. Your email says:

I am appalled with the state of NZ on Air funding non stop one way leftist political content. Its just never ending. Today in the herald is a disgusting smear piece, a clearly politically partisan hit job on a Councillor who wont toe the social justice line and speaks nothing more than what the majority of kiwis think.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12277886

How is this appropriate for you to fund a blindly partisan failing private media business with tax payers funds for partisan political raaaaaacist smear jobs ? I will answer that for you since you feel our tax payer funds is a leftist slush fund to push your SJW agendas, its not ok, not at all and we the public have been noticing it for quite some time and have had enough of you thieving cockroaches abusing tax payers to prop up a failing dying leftist infested NZ media class.

I am taking this complaint further and demand an investigation into NZ on Air. I want an official response as to who allowed this money to be abused like this for this Herald smear job , I want the name of who approved it, I want the costs and I want to see the application for the funding as well, I also want to know how much money has been given for political pieces in 2019 including a list of how many political pieces you financed under OIA terms. You have 20 working business days to supply it to me. It is time we had a full commission of inquiry into the state of NZ on Air including propping up local so called "journalists" as regional agents is also another disgraceful abuse of tax payers trust and funds. Was this a paid piece for the Human rights commission perhaps? clearly they wanted to get in on the smear, another government department that is nothing but a UN styled leftist hive of corruption and hypocrisy .

The media is done, they are liars completely disconnected from the main stream view and the public has simply moved on. We dont watch hardly any of your content, its mostly expensive made crap no one watches, money that could be feeding kids. They the media dont speak for us at all and no one carers they are going broke either. NZ on Air should never be funding political hit jobs like this. You did the same for the Valley series last election, 300k of tax payers money to stuff to produce a hit job two weeks out of the

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election for Mr Hager. I will be forwarding my complaint also to Winston Peters and David Seymour for advice on how to blow this whole scam up to the public so you thieving corrupt partisans are exposed for the hacks you all are. You are an utter disgrace NZ on Air you dirty filthy smear merchants.

The item you refer to is part of the *Local Focus* regional news project. This project was allocated \$400,000 in total in 2019/2020 to cover four regions – Palmerston North, Hastings, Tauranga and Rotorua. I have attached the proposal as requested. A small number of redactions have been made under s(9)(2)(b)(i) as trade secrets, or under s(9)(2)(a) to protect privacy.

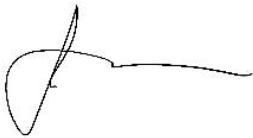
We do not record funding of “political pieces” in the way you refer. We support political current affairs series *Q+A*, *Newshub Nation* and *The Hui* and also a range of factual content which may or may not contain “political” elements. Titles are searchable on our website.

You ask for the name of the person who approved this. Applications go through an assessment process – [see here](#) – and recommendations are made either to a staff investment committee or the Board. In the case of *Local Focus*, now in its fourth season, a unanimous decision was made by the staff investment committee. As Chief Executive I am responsible for these decisions.

The Broadcasting Act does not permit NZ On Air to be involved in individual editorial decisions. If you wish to complain about this item, you have the right to do so first directly to the [NZ Herald](#) and secondly to the [Media Council](#) (formerly the Press Council) if you remain dissatisfied.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jane Wrightson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jane Wrightson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE