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New Zealand

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www.nzonair.govt.nz

Tel: 04 382 9524
Fax: 04 382 9546

13 February 2020

[REDACTED]
Parliament House
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 11 February 2020.

You have requested:

- *All correspondence, digital or hardcopy mentioning or directly related to RNZ Concert received or sent by NZ on Air since 1 February 2020*
- *Copies of any OIA Requests and any subsequent replies that relate to RNZ Concert*

I have attached the requested information:

- Stakeholder information received 5 February 2020
- Copies of OIA requests and our responses to those (two) requests received since 1 February 2020. We have redacted the names of the requestors under s9(2)(a) - privacy

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.

Yours sincerely

Clare Helm
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Connecting and reflecting our nation

From: Paul Thompson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 February 2020 8:10 AM
To: Clare Helm <clare@nzonair.govt.nz>
Cc: John Barr <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RNZ Music Strategy Update -

CONFIDENTIAL

Mōrena Clare

I hope you are well.

As discussed last week, at 10am today we will begin consulting staff about the implementation of the new Music Strategy.

See below a stakeholder update that provides the background. This will go out before 11am.

Please call if you have questions.

Cheers

Paul

Stakeholder Update

Over the past twelve months RNZ has carried out a review of our music services, exploring opportunities for music to engage with younger and more diverse audiences in line with RNZ's Charter obligations.

Today RNZ began implementing the new music strategy that will expand our range of services to New Zealanders.

The objective of the strategy is to diversify and grow audiences by developing an innovative new music brand aimed at young people. The new commercial-free brand will showcase New Zealand artists and their music in line with our Charter.

The new multimedia brand will be based in Auckland. It will be launched in the second half of 2020 and will be available online, on-demand, on streaming platforms and will be broadcast on FM nationwide.

As part of the strategy, the RNZ Concert service will continue and will undergo some changes in the next few months. It will be focused on playing classical music 24/7. RNZ will continue recording and broadcasting concerts alongside orchestras and other established music industry partners.

From the middle of 2020 RNZ Concert will no longer be available on FM but it will still be widely and easily available through online streaming and on-demand services.

RNZ Concert listeners will continue to access the content on Freeview channel 51 and Sky Digital channel 422, reaching 86% of homes in New Zealand. It will be available on mobile devices through

the RNZ app and our streaming partners like iHeart Radio, and Spotify, and through any other internet connected device.

RNZ Concert will also now be broadcast nationwide on AM radio on the Parliamentary Network when Parliament is not sitting, making it accessible to more than 3.5 million people or 83% of the New Zealand population.

RNZ has begun consulting staff affected by this plan.

We will be able to provide an update and more detailed information on the new strategy in April once staff consultation is completed and the implementation plan for the strategy is confirmed.

Please email me or call me on 029 2013426 if you have questions.

Ngā mihi nui

Paul Thompson

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Released under the Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 10 February 2020 7:46 PM
To: John McCay <[REDACTED]>
Subject: NZ on Air

Hello John,

Wearing your NZ on Air hat, I am curious as to the role of NZ on Air regarding the current Concert FM furore.

I believe three QC's are mounting a challenge to RNZ , in so much that under section 175 of the Radiocommunications Act 1989, RNZ was granted a licence to broadcast a service namely Concert FM on specific frequencies.

Presumably the challenge would be those frequencies are not transferable for any another purpose than under the terms that the licence was originally granted.

Reading that section of the Act, the terms of the licence also states that the station shall be operated in accordance with the conditions on which funds are made available from the Broadcasting Commission which I assume is NZ on Air.

- As the funder of RNZ, was the NZ on Air Board consulted on the plans to Downgrade Concert FM to an automated music streaming service and take it off the FM band? If so, was a vote taken on any decisions and if there was a vote, was it unanimous?
- If NZ on Air were not consulted, does it have a right to accuse RNZ of possibly diverting funds intended for purposes other than that which the Radio Licence was granted for (namely Concert FM)?

I know you will undoubtedly be a very busy person but I'd appreciate knowing if NZ on Air have had any discussions and have any views on the matter? I'm probably being a bit cheeky, but I thought a personal request might be better than the OIA. I'm not a journalist, just a music lover who thinks there's something smelling not quite right over at RNZ.

best regards,

[REDACTED]
Burnside, Christchurch. NZ
Tel: [REDACTED] cell: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED] website: [REDACTED]



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Tel: 04 382 9524
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13 February 2020

[REDACTED]
Burnside
Christchurch 8053

by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 10 February 2020

You have requested:

- *As the funder of RNZ, was the NZ on Air Board consulted on the plans to Downgrade Concert FM to an automated music streaming service and take it off the FM band? If so, was a vote taken on any decisions and if there was a vote, was it unanimous?*

Under the Broadcasting Act of 1989 our arrangement for funding Radio New Zealand is on an 'arms-length' basis to ensure RNZ provides editorially-independent, high quality public radio. The NZ On Air board was not consulted on the proposed plans to change Concert FM.

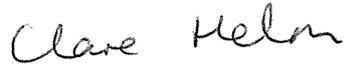
- *If NZ on Air were not consulted, does it have a right to accuse RNZ of possibly diverting funds intended for purposes other than that which the Radio Licence was granted for (namely Concert FM)?*

In the event that proposed changes constitute a legal breach, NZ On Air would engage with RNZ as necessary.

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Thank you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Helm". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Clare Helm

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Released under the Official Information Act

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 February 2020 4:15 PM
To: NZOA Info <info@nzonair.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA Request concerning Concert FM

Hi,

I should be grateful for all the information held by your agency concerning RNZ's decision, announced today (February 5 2020) "to remove RNZ Concert from its FM frequencies and transform it into an automated non-stop music station".

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Released under the Official Information Act



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13 February 2020

[REDACTED]
Manakau
Horowhenua 5541

by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 5 February 2020.

You have requested:

All the information held by your agency concerning RNZ's decision, announced today (February 5 2020) "to remove RNZ Concert from its FM frequencies and transform it into an automated non-stop music station".

NZ on Air was advised verbally about a pending consultation with RNZ staff on a new music strategy. We received an email regarding this process on Wednesday 5th February 2020, this is attached. Slight redacts have been made for privacy reasons.

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.

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ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Please email me or call me on 029 2013426 if you have questions.

Ngā mihi nui

Paul Thompson

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