

1 February 2021

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 15 January 2021.

You have requested:

- 1. A copy of the Radio New Zealand funding or other support request which facilitated the reporting and publication of the article [Death in Japan. RNZ From The Detail 5:00 am 2019.5.23].*
- 2. A copy of the New Zealand on Air response to this Radio New Zealand request.*
- 3. A copy of all correspondence related to this request and to the response.*
- 4. A record of the amount of funds which New Zealand on Air disbursed in connection with this Radio New Zealand request.*

We would like to provide some background on the funding process for this episode and clarify your OIA request.

This particular episode was produced as part of a series of investigative journalism piece for Radio NZ through the RNZ/ NZ On Air Join Innovation Fund. As background, in July 2018 the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media announced a joint contestable content innovation fund, to be administered by NZ On Air and RNZ, with the intention of strengthening public media contributions for New Zealand audiences. The \$6 million Joint Innovation Fund commissioned content, initially for RNZ platforms, with a focus on the creation of new, interesting, and innovative content for audiences that were currently not well served. Further detail on that fund can be found in our media [release here](#)

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between NZ On Air and Radio New Zealand can be found [here](#).

NZ On Air administered the application and payment process for this round. Radio New Zealand managed the production and broadcast of the projects. Once a project is funded, we do not have any editorial control on the final product. *The Detail* was submitted to this fund as a podcast series of investigative journalism. In line with our standard practice for this type of application, the documents and

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correspondence that we have relate to *The Detail* as a podcast series, and do not contain reference to the specific content of the individual episodes or stories to be investigated. We are therefore able to provide the overarching documents relating to *The Detail* but do not hold information that particularly relates to *Death in Japan*.

The total amount allocated for the series was \$554,106, as [per our website](#). We do not have a breakdown for individual episodes.

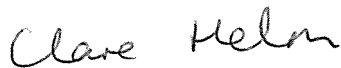
I would like to clarify if you are seeking the overview documents for *The Detail* applying to the RNZ/ NZ On Air Joint Innovation Fund. For details relating to the specific production for this episode, we would have to refer you to the producer, [Newsroom](#), or the broadcaster, [Radio New Zealand](#).

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 bi-monthly 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.

Yours sincerely

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

Clare Helm
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES