

22 July 2021

[REDACTED]
ACT New Zealand

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act ("OIA") dated 02 July 2021.

You have requested - *relating to Public Interest Journalism Funding:*

- *The number of applications that have been made, approved, and declined for funding;*
- *The reasons why applications have been declined for funding (I am not seeking reasons for the decline of particular/identifiable individual applications)*
- *Copies of any proactive communications NZ on Air or MCH have sent to media outlets informing them about funding or encouraging them to apply*
- *Copies of any communications NZ on Air or MCH have had with media outlets in relation to the following requirements:*

"3. Actively promote the principles of Partnership, Participation and Active Protection under Te Tiriti o Waitangi acknowledging Māori as a Te Tiriti partner"

"4. Reflect the cultural diversity of New Zealand"

"Applicants can show a clear and obvious commitment or intent for commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including a commitment to te reo Māori. This commitment will enhance public interest journalism, resulting in stronger Māori representation and greater bi-cultural collaboration within the wider journalism sector."

For the initial round of Public Journalism funding we received 123 first-stage applications. Applicants were first asked to submit five-page proposals by 13 May 2021, which were individually assessed by panellists. A hui was then held to shortlist proposals.

- 80 applications were declined at the first stage (5-page proposals)
- 43 applications were shortlisted to submit full proposals
- 41 full proposals were submitted (2 proposals did not submit).
- Six applications were declined at the second stage (full proposals).
- One applicant withdrew their request for funding at the second stage.
- 34 applications were approved and details of these can be found in our media releases [here](#) and [here](#).

This first round of the PIJF sought applications to the **Projects** and **Industry Development** pillars of the fund. [Information for this May/July 2021 funding round](#) outlined the assessment criteria and funding priorities to applicants. This was the criteria used to assess the applications. Applications that did not meet these criteria were declined for funding. In determining funding recommendations, alongside the individual merits of each application, the panels also considered missed opportunities around platform coordination and collaboration in the delivery of large-scale national schemes. In these instances, assessors declined applications at the first stage in order to address this issue with the sector directly at the [PIJF summit](#) held on 9 June.

The second round of funding considered the merits of each application to ensure a wide range of deliverables would be achieved in relation to the pool of funding available.

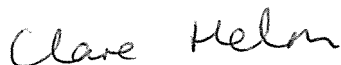
Apart from the aforementioned summit. All communications with the industry have been through our media releases or shorts newsletter, these are located on our [news](#) section of our website from February 2021 onward.

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