



13 December 2013

Kylie Fowler  
fyi-request-1258-f55beedc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Fowler

#### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your email of 26 October 2013 requesting “how much (if any) the MED has given to the A2B Yacht Race that was set for February 2014”, and “if the MED has made any commitments to the 2015 A2B Yacht Race”. I am responding to this request as the former MED is now a part of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

In September 2013 the organisers of the A2B Yacht Race decided to postpone their event originally planned for February 2014. The organisers will decide on a new date after they re-consult with key stakeholders, re-evaluate their business plan, and provide a detailed update to MBIE.

MBIE, through the Major Events Development Fund, originally committed \$440,000 towards the event. This investment followed a robust two-stage process in which the event organisers’ application was thoroughly assessed against the Fund’s criteria. These are available at: [www.majorevents.govt.nz](http://www.majorevents.govt.nz).

To date, \$100,000 has been paid according to the December 2012 and May 2013 milestones outlined in the investment agreement.

No further payments will be made unless a decision to proceed with an investment is approved, through the following process:


- The submission of a revised business plan by the event organisers;
- Evaluation of the benefits of the investment by MBIE; and
- Consideration by the Major Events Investment Panel and the Major Events Ministers Group.

An announcement is expected to be made in 2014.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act.

The Ombudsman  
PO Box 10 152  
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylie Archer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kylie Archer  
Manager  
New Zealand Major Events  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment