



18 May 2022

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Nic Lane via FYI

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Tēnā koe Nic

OIA request 21/22 0713 Request for information on funding given to applications using sign language (NZSL)

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 19 April 2022.

You requested –

- *Are you able to give a breakdown by year/fund of the number of applications that have been submitted in New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) over the last three financial years for funding applications within the Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board (excluding funds distributed by Creative New Zealand, Sport NZ, & New Zealand Film Commission).
Does your funding platform currently allow for video-based submissions to be assessed, and if not what is the timeline for this?*

We sent you a follow up email of 6 May 2022 via the FYI website asking for you to clarify what you meant by applications submitted in the New Zealand Sign Language and whether this was meant literally. You confirmed this as being correct, as you wanted to know if there were any barriers requiring written elements that breached a person's Rights.

In response to your request I can provide you with the following information.

I can advise that all applications for grants are either submitted online or written (typed) using an application form. There have been no applications submitted in the New Zealand Sign Language over the last 3 years for COGS or Lottery Grants.

Therefore, I must refuse this request under section 18(e) of the Act; that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

It may be useful for you to know that applying for a COGS or Lottery grant can only be done online through our grants and client management system or (for certain grants) paper-based applications can be accepted. Currently, we do not allow for video-based submissions, however, if you are not able to complete either the online or the paper request form for yourself, for some grants, you can give permission for someone else to fill the request in on your behalf.

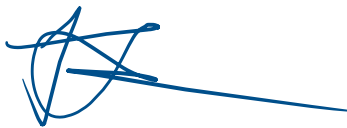
Our Community Advisors are also available across the country to provide assistance on a variety of matters, including accessing our funding, as required. If you have any concerns you can contact us to discuss this, please see the following link with our contact details on the community matters website: <https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/how-we-can-help-and-where-to-find-us/> .

Also, please see the link below for the Funding Calendar (timeline of opening, closing and decision dates) for all funds administered by the Department of Internal Affairs' Hāpai Hapori (Community Operations) branch for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 funding years <https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/important-dia-funding-dates/> .

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,



Julia Taylor
Manager Operational Policy and Official Correspondence
Service Delivery and Operations