



30 June 2023

John Jacobson

By email: fyi-request-22806-8ade42e8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

Official information request regarding projects funded by the Gama Foundation Governance and Policy Studies Endowment Fund

I refer to your official information request dated 15 May 2023:

"Max Rashbrooke and Prof Lisa Marriot were awarded \$167,000 to study political party funding.

Dr Bryce Edwards and Prof Karin Lasthuizen were awarded \$333,000 to "research allegations of integrity violations by politicians. They will annually release a Political Integrity Index for New Zealand".

Dr Edwards was also awarded "\$487,000 to map how wealthy and powerful interests use lobbying, personal connections and financial contributions to political entities to benefit themselves and perpetuate the power and favoured public policies of elites."

Please provide me with the following information:

- 1. Copies of the applications for all three projects listed above;*
- 2. Copies of all progress reports submitted by those awarded the funding for each of the three projects;*
- 3. Copies of the outputs of each of these projects;*
- 4. Copies of the applications from all proposals awarded funding from the Gama Foundation Governance and Policy Studies Endowment Fund since January 2022; and*
- 5. Copies of the progress reports submitted on the projects identified in (4) above."*

The Gama Foundation Fund (GFF) offers a research grant to academic staff across all faculties at Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington. The objective of the grant is to support independent, high quality and high impact research and communication that informs the public and policy-making process and influences policy development and implementation in several important areas.

Applications to the GFF are submitted with the expectation of confidentiality regarding the content and intellectual property contained within the proposals. Therefore, information about applications and progress reports is withheld in accordance with

s9(2)(ba) (i) of the Act in order to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

We are able to provide you with a summary of applications approved for funding since January 2022, together with currently available research outputs. Details are available in the attached supporting document.

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

If you wish to discuss this decision further, please feel free to contact us at oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

Legal Services

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington