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David Palmer

By email: fyi-request-25138-387f6fb2@requests.fyi.org.nz

14 December 2023

Dear David

Official Information Act request dated 12 December 2023

We refer to your email dated 12 December 2023 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the **Act**) about the use of te reo Māori at TVNZ (the **Request**). TVNZ's response is set out below.

Request 1: What, if any, direction has been provided to TVNZ by the current government regarding the usage of te reo Māori in broadcasts or news articles?

TVNZ has not received any direction from the current government regarding the usage of te reo Māori in our broadcasts or news articles. Section 28(1) of the TVNZ Act prohibits the shareholding Minister, or any other Minister from providing direction to TVNZ on its programming, newsgathering or content presentation.

Request 2: Have there been any changes to policy regarding the use of te reo Māori in broadcasts or news articles at TVNZ?

No.

Request 3: Have TVNZ newscasters been given any formal or informal directives on their use of te reo Māori in broadcasts?

TVNZ does not have a formal directive regarding the usage of te reo Māori in news and entertainment programming. News presenters and journalists are encouraged to use both English and te reo Māori in the manner they are most comfortable with. Guidance is provided to ensure accurate pronunciation. All TVNZ employees have the opportunity to attend te reo Māori classes as part of their employment to gain language skills. These classes are free of charge and optional.

Programming commissioned by TVNZ is required to provide a cultural integrity strategy to ensure accurate, authentic and appropriate content. Each external production's plan will be different and dependent on the content. There is no specific level of te reo Māori required as part of this documentation.

Request 4: Please provide any internal communication or documents regarding the use of te reo Māori in broadcasts or news articles.

No internal communications or documents regarding the use of te reo Māori in broadcasts or news articles exist in the timeframe specified.

The attached internal communication and associated document was delivered to the 1News newsroom within this timeframe pertaining to proper pronunciation and language competency for voice clearance (testing for onscreen readiness).

We trust this response assists with your query. If you are dissatisfied with TVNZ's response to your request, section 28 of the Act sets out the circumstances under which you may seek review or further investigation by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

**Official Information Requests Team
TVNZ**