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Luke [No Last Name Provided]
No address provided

Via email: fyi-request-25902-d1bcaa5d@requests.fyi.org.nz>

22 March 2024

Dear Luke

Official Information Act request dated 27 February 2024

We refer to your email dated 27 February 2024 (your **Request**) requesting information regarding TVNZ's editorial decision making under the Official Information Act 1982 (the **Act**). TVNZ's Response is set out below.

Request 1:

Does TVNZ support the views of Newsroom editor Mark Jennings when he commented on The Detail: "Quite a lot of talk and discussion in the media, particularly amongst senior editorial people about whether we should even report Winston Peters' attacks on the media when he says there's corruption and clearly there's no basis for that, whether we should all just stick together, and decide not report him"?

Response 1:

TVNZ does not hold a position on Mark Jennings' views expressed on The Detail. This request is therefore declined on the basis of section 18(e) of the Act: the information does not exist.

Request 2:

Has any of the "quite a lot of talk and discussion ... amongst senior editorial people" included persons within TVNZ?

Response 2:

TVNZ's news leadership team has not discussed Winston Peters' comments on media corruption with other media organisations. This request is therefore declined on the basis of section 18(e) of the Act: the information does not exist.

Request 3:

In the last three years, has TVNZ ever engaged in any discussions or conversations of any kind with any news media organisation, where refusing to report on either media corruption, the Treaty, or any other controversial political issue has been discussed?

Response 3

TVNZ regularly engages in discussions with other media on newsgathering. However, TVNZ has not discussed refusing to report on media corruption, the Treaty, or any other controversial political issue. his request is therefore declined on the basis of section 18(e) of the Act: the information does not exist.

Request 4:

In the last three years, has TVNZ ever engaged in any discussions or conversations of any kind either internally or with NZ on Air, where refusing to report on either media corruption, the Treaty, or any other controversial political issue has been discussed?

Response 4:

TVNZ's news leadership team have not discussed any editorial decision making with NZ on Air. This request is therefore declined on the basis of section 18(e) of the Act: the information does not exist.

Request 5:

In the last three years, has TVNZ ever engaged in any discussions or conversations of any kind with any other organisation, where refusing to report on either media corruption, the Treaty, or any other controversial political issue has been discussed?

Response 5:

TVNZ's news leadership team has not discussed editorial decision making on these topics with other organisations. His request is therefore declined on the basis of section 18(e) of the Act: the information does not exist.

Request 6:

Please provide a summary, relevant emails, and a transcript of all mentioned above.

Response 6

This request is declined on the basis of section 18(e) of the Act: the information does not exist.

Request 7:

Does TVNZ agree that if major New Zealand media organisations form agreements over what controversial issues to report on and what not to report on, then the outcome has the potential to cause significant harm to the public interest?

Response 7:

This Request requires TVNZ to create an opinion and is therefore declined on the basis of section 18(e) of the Act: the information does not exist.

Request 8:

Why has TVNZ not reported on Winston Peters' allegations of news media corruption, at the same time as several other news media outlets in New Zealand have stopped reporting on it?

Response 8:

TVNZ has often reported on Winston Peters' comments. Examples can be found on the 1News site and in 1News bulletins (i.e. on 29 November 2023 available on TVNZ+ or at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EFWOUoi3_U)

Request 9:

Has TVNZ ever chosen not to report on a controversial political issue in the last three years? If so, what?

Response 9:

Section 12(2) applies to this Request: Please set out your Request with due particularity including specificity as to what you mean by a 'controversial political issue'.

Request 10:

Other than stories that might breach the BSA and Media Council standards, on what grounds does TVNZ deem a story inappropriate to report on?

Response 10:

In addition to complying with BSA and Media Council standards, TVNZ's news stories must comply with the law. For example, a news story cannot breach name suppression.

Request 11:

Is TVNZ party to any agreement with any other news media organisation which either prevents TVNZ from reporting, or materially affects TVNZ's reporting on any particular political issue?

Response 11:

No.

Request 12:

Is TVNZ party to any agreement with any other organisation which either prevents TVNZ from reporting, or materially affects TVNZ's reporting on any particular political issue?

Response 12:

No

We trust this information assists. As you may know, if you are dissatisfied with this response section 28 of the Act provides you with the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman in order to seek an investigation and review.

Yours sincerely,

Official Information Requests Team
TVNZ