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O. Hasaniah
Address Not Provided

Via email: <fyi-request-26668-4f9e005a@requests.fyi.org.nz>

30 May 2024

Dear O. Hasaniah

Official Information Act request dated 8 May 2024

We refer to your email dated 8 May 2024 (your **Request**) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the **Act**) in relation to Q+A's 21 April 2024 interview with the Israeli Ambassador to New Zealand. TVNZ's Response is set out below.

Request 1: Please provide information on the initiation of the interview. Was the idea proposed by Q&A, TVNZ, Jack Tame or one of the Q&A producers, the Israeli ambassador or his representatives, or an external third party? If an external third party, please provide the name of the third party/organisation. If the external third party is an individual who you cannot name, please name the organisation they represent or are affiliated with.

Response 1: The interview was initiated by Q+A.

Request 2: Regarding the planning/proposal/initiation of this interview, please provide all internal and external communications/records between TVNZ (including but not limited to TVNZ's employees, contractors, advisors, management or leadership) and the Israeli ambassador or his relevant representatives, and any involved third party. Please include emails, systems records, file notes, text messages, meeting agenda, meeting minutes, physical documents, memos, Microsoft Teams chat and any other form of digital or physical communication, as well as anything else of relevance not mentioned here.

Response 2: Information responsive to this request is attached.

Request 3: Please provide the sources Jack Tame's questions and comments were based on in the interview. Specifically, the noted and repeated death tolls.

Response 3: Source information is gathered in accordance with the News and Current Affairs Handbook. Specific details as to source information with respect to this interview have been withheld on the following grounds:

- Section 9(2)(b) of the Act: to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;
- Section 9(2)(g) of the Act: to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by members of an organisation in the course of their duty; and

- Section 9(2)(i) of the Act: to enable TVNZ to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

For context, please note that in order to operate free of influence and without fear or favour, TVNZ treats its internal news and current affairs operations (including the collection of source and source information for current affairs segments) as commercially sensitive; release of information about how we produce our news and current affairs content would put us at strategic disadvantage to our competitors in the media industry, would mean we could not carry out free and frank editorial discussions, and would mean we could not produce news and current affairs content without disadvantage.

Request 4: Are there any relationships between anyone at TVNZ (including, but not limited to employees, contractors, executives) and the Israeli ambassador, his representatives, or any third party that should be disclosed that may be of interest to the general public, as they may compromise journalistic integrity?

Response 4: Section 18(e) of the Act applies to this request; the information does not exist. To be clear, the answer is no.

Request 5: If there was any expression of concern regarding potential infringement of any of the BSA principles from anyone within TVNZ, including employees and contractors, in the pre-production/planning phase of this interview, please provide any communications, including meeting minutes, in which this was discussed.

Response 5: Section 18(e) of the Act applies to this request; the information does not exist. (Again, the answer is no).

Request 5: If legal advice was sought in the pre-production/planning phase of this interview by TVNZ, Q&A, or any related staff, including contractors, please provide all relevant communications and contracts.

Response 5: If legal advice had been sought, then it would be withheld on the basis of section 9(2)(h) of the Act: to protect legal professional privilege.

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