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James
No address provided
Via email: James <fyi-request-29287-faa43b65@requests.fyi.org.nz>

20 December 2024

Kia ora James

Official Information Act request dated 22 November 2024

We refer to your email dated 22 November 2024 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the **Act**). The answers to your specific questions are set out below.

Request One: On the 15th October the TVNZ breakfast show's Jenny-May Clarkson interviewed Hikoī organiser Eru Kapa Kingi. Kingi was a former Māori party candidate, a parliamentary staffer for the Māori party, and former Māori party candidate. None of this information was disclosed. Please provide all communications concerning the organising/facilitating of this interview. This should include initial reach out through to final delivery.

Response One: Emails regarding the logistics of this interview are attached. Additional responsive information has 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; and including internal correspondence about news media activity) 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.

However, to assist with your enquiry, we note that TVNZ adheres to the Broadcasting Standards established under the Broadcasting Act 1989. Should you consider that the omission of the information you have identified is a breach of one of the Broadcasting Standards, you are able to make a formal complaint here: <https://corporate.tvnz.co.nz/contact/make-a-formal-complaint/>

For completeness, Eru Kapa-Kingi was introduced as an organiser of the Hikoī mō te Tiriti, which was the subject of the segment.

Request Two: Please provide any guidelines/protocols the Breakfast show has for ensuring neutrality and providing full disclosure of guests concerning their conflicts of interests and connections with other groups or people that may materially change the way an interview is perceived by the public.

Response Two: TVNZ adheres to the Broadcasting Standards established under the Broadcasting Act 1989. In addition, its Editorial Policy is publicly available on its website <https://www.1news.co.nz/2024/08/26/editorial-policy/>

Request Three: Forty-five seconds into the interview the quote/statement 'What is good for Māori is good for everyone' was screened 10 times across the bottom of the screen. Neither Clarkson, Kingi or Harawira used the words, even came to close to using those words so they could be paraphrased.

Please provide all information/communications relating to the screening of this statement during the interview including who the quote/statement is actually credited to.

Please provide all pre authorised and real time text that was screened before the interview took place and when the interview was live, if any.

Response Three: Again, the requested information has 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.

However, in accordance with the Act's principle of availability, and to assist you with your question, we note that this statement appeared in quote marks to make it clear that it was a quote. It was taken from the off air pre-show interview with Eru Kapa-Kingi and Hone Harawira. The attribution was left out because it would have been too long for the existing banner space.

Please note that section 28 of the Act sets out the circumstances in which you may make a complaint to the Ombudsman in order to seek an investigation and review of this decision.

Yours sincerely,

Official Information Requests Team
TVNZ