



Level 2  
119 Ghuznee Street  
P O Box 9744  
Wellington 6141  
New Zealand

info@nzonair.govt.nz  
www.nzonair.govt.nz

Tel: 04 382 9524  
Fax: 04 382 9546

31 January 2022

Wendy McGuinness  
Chief Executive  
The McGuinness Institute | Te Hononga Waka  
By email: [wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org](mailto:wmcg@mcguinnessinstitute.org)

Tēnā koe Wendy

### Partial Official Information request transfer

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act (“OIA”) dated 23 December 2021.

You have requested various information relating to the Public Interest Journalism Fund, particularly regarding:

*checks and balances that have been put in place and whether the proposed benefits have eventuated and/or whether existing (or new) risk shave been increased (or identified).*

We have transferred a portion of your request to Manatū Taonga | Ministry for Culture and Heritage. The information to which your request relates is not held by us and is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of Manatū Taonga. In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the Act to transfer your request. You will hear further from Manatū Taonga concerning your request and they can be contacted through [uia@mch.govt.nz](mailto:uia@mch.govt.nz).

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to transfer your request. The relevant details can be found at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

To confirm, we have transferred the following questions:

**Question 1:** *Was a risk assessment completed to identify risks to Aotearoa New Zealand’s current democracy? If yes, can you please provide a copy?*

**Question 3:** *How is the PIJF designed to help create new commercial media models?*

**Question 15:** *Can you clarify the relationship between COVID-19 and the establishment of the PIJF? Note: Given that COVID-19 is ‘the dominant story’ in the news and the government’s response to COVID-19 has and will continue to be the key electoral issue, linking the two, in our view, creates an unnecessary political risk. This is particularly the case given that the problem the PIJF is trying to solve was amplified by COVID-19 –not generated by COVID-19. Our view is that any investment in journalism should be ring-fenced and managed by the House (not by the Crown); in other words, a non-partisan view should be sought, heard, acted upon, and independently reviewed.*

## Connecting and reflecting our nation

**Question 19:** *Are there any other situations where the government directly funds specific journalists? If yes, please advise the name of the fund (or other means), how much is funded, and what funds have been provided to what journalists?*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Kerry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sharon Kerry  
**HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES**