

2 June 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 24 March 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following information:

1. **All communications between [Hon] Carmel Sepuloni [or the Ministry of Arts, Culture & Heritage Officials] with Andy Hamilton from January 1 2020 to March 22 2023.**
2. **All communications between [Hon] Carmel Sepuloni [or the Ministry for Arts, Culture & Heritage Officials] with any director or staff member of We Are Indigo and their subsidiaries from January 1 2020 to March 22 2023.**

As noted to you previously, the Ministry's response covers only information held by the Ministry. We have interpreted 'all communications' as pertaining to emails, text messages, phone calls, teams calls and messages, application submissions and any verbal discussion between the two parties.

The Ministry has no record of communications between Hon Carmel Sepuloni and Andy Hamilton from 1 January 2020 to 22 March 2023 (inclusive). We also have no record of communications between Hon Carmel Sepuloni and any other director or staff member of *We Are Indigo Limited* or its subsidiaries (specifically, *Manaaki.io* and *Toi ki Tua*).

Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Document	Document Description	Decision
Appendix One	1. Email Correspondence & Meeting Note relating to communications between Manatū Taonga and We Are Indigo, including with Andy Hamilton	Some information withheld under 9(2)(a)
Appendix Two	1. Expression of Interest (EOI) Form - Tūpuna.ai	Some information withheld under 9(2)(b)(ii)
Appendix Two	2. Expression of Interest (EOI) Form - Manaaki U	Some information withheld under 9(2)(b)(ii)
Appendix Two	3. Full Proposal Submission - Manaaki U	Some information withheld under 9(2)(b)(ii)
Appendix Two	4. Evaluation Report - Manaaki U	Some information withheld under 9(2)(b)(ii)

Appendix Two	5. Expression of Interest (EOI) Form - You do You - By Rangatahi for Rangatahi	Some information withheld under 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(a)
Appendix Two	6. Full Proposal Submission – You do You – By Rangatahi for Rangatahi	Some information withheld under 9(2)(b)(ii)

I have decided to release the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information

Please note that administrative emails, such as correspondence relating to responding to OIA requests, have been excluded. In addition, some information has been deleted where it is not within the scope of your request.

The Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund has an iterative application process. Because of this, additional information can be provided by the applicant to support initially unsuccessful applications which are resubmitted in subsequent funding rounds.

The ‘*Evaluation Report – Manaaki U*’ provided to you in this OIA was provided to We Are Indigo staff as part of consultation on an OIA request, and was current at the time of the request for Manaaki.io’s ‘*Manaaki U*’ Round One application.

However, I note that all We Are Indigo (and its subsidiaries) applications through the Regeneration Fund have now closed and are no longer considered ‘live’ applications.

Information being withheld

There are additional application supporting documents covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA. I do not consider these considerations outweigh the need to withhold the information.

3. All communications between [Hon] Carmel Sepuloni and/or her Ministry and/or Arts, Culture & Heritage Ministry Officials with the Auditor General or any member of the Auditor General’s office relating to We Are Indigo and their subsidiaries from January 1 2020 to March 22 2023.

The Ministry has no records of electronic correspondence between the Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage and any member of the Auditor General’s office, including the Auditor-General, relating to We Are Indigo between 1 January 2020 and 22 March 2023 (*inclusive*).

The Ministry also has no records of electronic correspondence between Hon Carmel Sepuloni and the Auditor-General or any member of the Auditor-General's office relating to We Are Indigo between 1 January 2020 and 22 March 2023 (*inclusive*).


If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact OIA@mch.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or via freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents on the Ministry's website.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)



Joe Fowler

Pou Mataaho o Te Aka Tūhono - Deputy Chief Executive, Investment & Outcomes