

Reference: 20200381

20 November 2020



s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 10 November 2020. You requested the Treasury report 'T2020/1664: Media Subscriptions Letters'.

Information being released

I have decided to release the report you requested, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment; and
- section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Direct dial phone numbers of officials have been redacted under section 9(2)(k) in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing and other scams. This is because information released under the Official Information Act may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites, including the Treasury's website.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Juston Anderson
Acting Manager, Commercial Performance

1 The Terrace
PO Box 3724
Wellington 6140
New Zealand
tel. +64-4-472-2733

<https://treasury.govt.nz>



TE TAI ŌHANGA
THE TREASURY

Treasury Report: Media Subscriptions Letters

Date:	28 May 2020	Report No:	T2020/1664
		File Number:	CM-1-3-66-1

Action sought

	Action sought	Deadline
Minister for State Owned Enterprises (Rt Hon Winston Peters)	Note contents	None
Minister of Finance (Hon Grant Robertson)	Sign the attached letters	Friday 5 June 2020
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon David Parker)	Note contents	None
Associate Minister for State Owned Enterprises (Hon Shane Jones)	Note contents	None

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
Eva Parker	Graduate Analyst, Commercial Performance	s9(2)(k)	N/A (mob) ✓
Juston Anderson	Acting Manager, Commercial Performance	s9(2)(g)(ii)	

Minister of Finance's office actions

Email the signed letters to the Chairs of the relevant entities.

Return the signed report to the Treasury.

Note any
feedback on
the quality of
the report

Enclosure: Yes (attached)

Treasury Report: Media Subscriptions Letters

Purpose of Report

1. This report attaches letters to be signed and sent to the Chairs of relevant entities in the Crown portfolio, encouraging these organisations to review and increase their uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium new services.
2. These letters will assist with the implementation of the initiative to centralise and increase government uptake of media subscriptions, approved by the Cabinet Business Committee as part of the Government's immediate media sector support package [CBC-20-MIN-0051 refers].

Background

3. On 20 April 2020, the Cabinet Business Committee approved an immediate media support package to soften the severe financial impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on the industry [CBC-20-MIN-0051 refers]. This package included an initiative to centralise and increase government uptake of media subscriptions to provide immediate cash flow to small to medium news services. Ministers were invited to write to their relevant Crown entities, requesting that they support the initiative.
4. On 13 May 2020, the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media provided a draft letter to be sent to relevant entities in Ministers' portfolios. This letter outlines the initiative and encourages Crown entities to review and increase their uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium new services.
5. The Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media requested that this letter be sent to at least statutory Crown entities, but suggested it could also be sent to other entities in Ministers' portfolios, depending on the circumstance. The Treasury recommends that this letter also be sent to relevant State-owned enterprises and Public Finance Act 1989 Schedule 4A companies, as well as the Reserve Bank of NZ.
6. The Treasury has customised the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media's draft letter to reflect alternative entity types. This report attaches these letters to be signed and sent to the Chairs of the relevant entities for which you are responsible.

Recipients

7. The Treasury suggests this letter is sent to the following entities under the Minister of Finance's responsibility:
 - the Reserve Bank of New Zealand
 - the Earthquake Commission, and
 - Southern Response Earthquake Services Limited.
8. The Treasury suggests this letter is sent to the following entities under the Minister for State Owned Enterprises' responsibility:
 - AsureQuality Limited
 - Kiwirail Limited
 - Kordia Group Limited

- Landcorp Farming Limited
 - Quotable Value Limited
 - Transpower New Zealand Limited, and
 - Crown Infrastructure Partners Limited.
9. The Treasury also suggests the letter is sent to Animal Control Products Limited (Orillion) – a State-owned enterprise where the Minister of Finance and Minister for Biosecurity are shareholding Ministers.
10. As the Minister of Finance is a shareholder in all of the above entities, the Treasury recommends that the Minister of Finance signs and sends these letters on behalf of shareholding Ministers.
11. The Treasury suggests that the letter is not sent to entities that:
- other Ministers are responsible for
 - have already been written to
 - are administered by the Treasury
 - have other shareholders
 - are a residual entity, or
 - are under financial pressure and/or receiving Crown financial support.

Recommended Action

We recommend that the Minister of Finance **signs** the attached letters to the Chairs of the relevant entities, on behalf of shareholding Ministers.

Juston Anderson
Acting Manager, Commercial Performance

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Hon David Parker
Associate Minister of Finance

Hon Shane Jones
Associate Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Mr Alister James
Chair
Southern Response Earthquake Services Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear Alister

I am writing to encourage Southern Response to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

As part of the government's support package for the media sector, there has been an uptake of 12 month subscriptions or donations across all government departments to New Zealand small to medium news organisations, which produce quality journalism with a broad public interest component at a national level.

If Southern Response Earthquake Services Limited was also to take out subscriptions, it would assist by providing immediate revenue to New Zealand news services, to help them to continue to provide these valuable services. It will also ensure your staff have access to a diversity of voices and perspectives which can inform their work.

It has also been brought to my attention that some organisations take out small subscriptions that are then shared widely across the organisation. I encourage you to look at the nature of subscription licensing that your organisation currently holds to ensure that it appropriately reflects the number of users registered.

¹ The Government Procurement Rules define a New Zealand business as a business that originated in New Zealand (not being a New Zealand subsidiary of an offshore business), is majority owned or controlled by New Zealanders, and has its principal place of business in New Zealand. For the purpose of this initiative, a small to medium business employs up to 50 FTE staff members on a permanent basis.

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage will release information shortly on its website about how this initiative will be implemented across central government. Please contact Support.Media@mch.govt.nz at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage if you have any questions about this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance
on behalf of shareholding Ministers

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Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Mr Mark Binns
Chair
Crown Infrastructure Partners Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear Mark

I am writing to encourage Crown Infrastructure Partners to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

As part of the government's support package for the media sector, there has been an uptake of 12 month subscriptions or donations across all government departments to New Zealand small to medium news organisations, which produce quality journalism with a broad public interest component at a national level.

If Crown Infrastructure Partners Limited was also to take out subscriptions, it would assist by providing immediate revenue to New Zealand news services, to help them to continue to provide these valuable services. It will also ensure your staff have access to a diversity of voices and perspectives which can inform their work.

It has also been brought to my attention that some organisations take out small subscriptions that are then shared widely across the organisation. I encourage you to look at the nature of subscription licensing that your organisation currently holds to ensure that it appropriately reflects the number of users registered.

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Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Mr Adrian Orr
Governor
Reserve Bank of New Zealand
Adrian.Orr@rbnz.govt.nz

Dear Adrian

I am writing to encourage the RBNZ to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

As part of the government's support package for the media sector, there has been an uptake of 12 month subscriptions or donations across all government departments to New Zealand small to medium news organisations, which produce quality journalism with a broad public interest component at a national level.

If the Reserve Bank of New Zealand was also to take out subscriptions, it would assist by providing immediate revenue to New Zealand news services, to help them to continue to provide these valuable services. It will also ensure your staff have access to a diversity of voices and perspectives which can inform their work.

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Yours sincerely

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Minister of Finance

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Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Hon Sir Michael Cullen KNZM
Chair
Earthquake Commission
s9(2)(a)

Dear Sir Michael

I am writing to encourage eqc to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

As part of the government's support package for the media sector, there has been an uptake of 12 month subscriptions or donations across all government departments to New Zealand small to medium news organisations, which produce quality journalism with a broad public interest component at a national level.

If Crown Entities were also to take out subscriptions, it would assist by providing immediate revenue to New Zealand news services, to help them to continue to provide these valuable services. It will also ensure your staff have access to a diversity of voices and perspectives which can inform their work.

It has also been brought to my attention that some organisations take out small subscriptions that are then shared widely across the organisation. I encourage you to look at the nature of subscription licensing that your organisation currently holds to ensure that it appropriately reflects the number of users registered.

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Yours sincerely

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

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Minister for Sport and Recreation

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Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Dr Alison Watters
Chair
AsureQuality Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear Alison

I am writing to encourage AsureQuality to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

As part of the government's support package for the media sector, there has been an uptake of 12 month subscriptions or donations across all government departments to New Zealand small to medium news organisations, which produce quality journalism with a broad public interest component at a national level.

If State Owned Enterprises were also to take out subscriptions, it would assist by providing immediate revenue to New Zealand news services, to help them to continue to provide these valuable services. It will also ensure your staff have access to a diversity of voices and perspectives which can inform their work.

It has also been brought to my attention that some organisations take out small subscriptions that are then shared widely across the organisation. I encourage you to look at the nature of subscription licensing that your organisation currently holds to ensure that it appropriately reflects the number of users registered.

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Yours sincerely

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance
on behalf of shareholding Ministers

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Minister for Sport and Recreation

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Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Mr Brian Corban
Chair
KiwiRail Holdings Limited

s9(2)(a)

Dear Brian

I am writing to encourage Kiwirail to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

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Mr John Quirk
Chair
Kordia Group Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear John

I am writing to encourage Kordia to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

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Minister for Sport and Recreation

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Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Mr Warren Parker
Chair
Landcorp Farming Limited

s9(2)(a)

Dear Warren

I am writing to encourage Landcorp to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

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Yours sincerely

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance
on behalf of shareholding Ministers

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MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Mr Terry Murdoch
Chair
Animal Control Products Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear Terry

I am writing to encourage Animal Control Products to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

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MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Mr Greg Fortuin
Chair
Quotable Value Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear Greg

I am writing to encourage Quotable Value to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

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Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



Ms Pip Dunphy
Chair
Transpower New Zealand Limited
s9(2)(a)

Dear Pip

I am writing to encourage Transpower to increase its uptake of subscriptions for New Zealand small to medium¹ news services in order to support organisations impacted by COVID-19.

As you will be aware, New Zealand's media sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 response due to a drastic drop in advertising revenue. At the same time, media has a vital role during the response period in ensuring ongoing access to reliable and up-to-date news coverage and keeping New Zealanders informed while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. Private media are critical in supporting the production of news and journalism and ensuring our democracy has a strong and independent fourth estate.

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