**Hon Paul Goldsmith**

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Justice
Minister for Media and Communications
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Alex Stewart
alexstewart@wombatnet.co.nz

OIAPG738

Dear Alex

Thank you for your email of 20 November 2025 to my office requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

> *I am requesting information on the Telecommunications Development Levy (TDL) for the 2024/25 year and the Government's current planning for future levy periods.*
>
> 1. ***Budgeting of forecast TDL revenue:***
>
>    *Please provide any documents, briefings, or internal advice that indicate whether forecast TDL revenue for future years has been pre-budgeted, tagged to specific baselines, or otherwise allocated within Vote Communications or any related appropriations.*
>
> 2. ***Current allocation intentions:***
>
>    *If any portion of the 2024/25 levy or future levy rounds remains unallocated, please provide information on any active workstreams, options, or policy considerations relating to how this funding may be used.*
>
> 3. ***Consideration of non-MNO connectivity or resilience initiatives:***
>
>    *Please provide any advice or discussions the Minister or MBIE have received on whether TDL funding could include support for non-mobile-network-operator (non-MNO) providers, particularly smaller regional, community, or fixed-wireless operators who contribute to rural and remote connectivity outcomes.*
>
> 4. ***Technology-neutrality and future planning:***
>
>    *Please provide any advice the Minister has received regarding the market impact of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite services, including whether the emergence of LEO has influenced decisions about TDL-funded programmes or the assessment of which technologies remain viable for public-interest connectivity outcomes.*

As you may be aware, the Government has active considerations underway in the telecommunications sector, including the ongoing Telecommunications Sector Regulatory Review and proposed changes through the Telecommunications Amendment Bill. Due to this work being in its early stages, I have determined to withhold the information you have requested under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, which relates to the withholding of information to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.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 freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Hon Paul Goldsmith
**Minister for Media and Communications**