


20 October 2025



24 SEPTEMBER 2025: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

In your email dated 24 September 2025 you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. Any documents, correspondence, briefings or other forms of communication pertaining to Jacinda Ardern's appearance in the 2025 film Pike River.*

Please find documents within scope of your request at **Appendix 1**. Information has been redacted where one of the withholding grounds under the OIA applies, in which case the specific ground is noted by the redaction.

All other documents held by the New Zealand Film Commission in scope of this request are withheld in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA as the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Please be aware that you have the right, by way of complaint to an Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review of our response.

Yours sincerely



Tayla Hancock
Senior Advisor, Policy and Performance
New Zealand Film Commission

Appendix 1

File note

The New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) received a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) in January 2024 for any information, including communications, related to the casting of Jacinda Ardern in the *Pike River* film. The request was refused under sections 18(a) and 18(g) of the OIA.

As per the usual process, NZFC notified the Office of the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage of the decision to refuse the request. The NZFC advised the Office of the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage via a phone call that the NZFC was aware Jacinda Arden would be making an appearance in *Pike River*, but because the film was still in production and had not yet released, could not disclose any information about the project (that wasn't in the public domain).

From: [Tayla Hancock](#)
To: [Harriett Adams](#)
Cc: [Nicholas Jolly](#); [Annie Murray](#)
Subject: No Surprises - Jacinda Ardern appearance in Pike River
Date: Wednesday, 25 June 2025 12:28:00 p.m.
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Kia ora Harriett,

As previously advised to the Ministers Office in January 2024, this is a No Surprises notification to advise that Jacinda Ardern makes a brief appearance as herself in the NZFC-funded film *Pike River*. The role was unpaid, and she did not receive any compensation in relation to the appearance.

Pike River premiered at the Sydney Film Festival on June 7 as a Special Presentation and opens in New Zealand cinemas on October 30.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi

Tayla

Tayla Hancock (she/her/ia)

Senior Advisor, Policy and Performance

Chair, Staff Diversity and Inclusion Committee

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If you are wondering about the use of the pronouns she/her/ia on this signature, [read this article from PSC](#) about how sharing pronouns in this way can help create an inclusive and safe environment for our gender diverse whānau.

To make sure that we're inclusive and accessible to all, please let us know if you require any adjustments or assistance if you're coming to see us.

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