

# External Assessor Process for Production and Development Funding

## Why does the NZFC use external assessors?

The New Zealand Film Commission (**NZFC**) engages a range of local and international individuals who have various specialisations across the areas of development, finance, production and/or film licencing of screen content (**External Assessors**). Where relevant, an additional assessor with appropriate cultural and/or knowledge and experience associated with an under-represented community may be engaged to provide valuable objective insight (**Cultural Assessor**). For example, if your project has Māori content or characters, the NZFC will seek an independent perspective considering the [Te Rautaki Māori guidelines](#).

We have put together some Frequently Asked Questions (**FAQ**) about assessors and the assessment process. Please get in touch with us at [development@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:development@nzfilm.co.nz) if you have a question that is not covered here.

## How are assessors allocated?

The NZFC uses appropriate assessors for the relevant fund and the application submitted. While some of these individuals specialise in specific areas (for example documentary, animation, interactive projects), all External Assessors provide a useful and independent perspective on funding applications to NZFC staff. For example, if you are applying with a documentary treatment, an assessor who has extensive experience in documentary will be assigned.

## What role does the assessor have in my application?

It is important that the NZFC receives independent assessments from an international, local and cultural perspective to ensure decision making is as informed as it can be. The assessments provided are used to support the NZFC staff in their decision about your application.

However, the External Assessors do not make final decisions whether your project is funded.

## Does the assessor decide if I get funding?

No.

## What information does the assessor receive?

Assessors receive the full application, except for private and personal information (used for statistical purposes by NZFC staff only).

## What if the assessor has a conflict of interest?

All assessors are required to disclose whether they have any conflicts of interest in every funding round before being contracted. They are provided with some basic details (project name, producer/director/writer(s) names and the logline only) about your application and asked to declare whether they have a conflict of interest with you or the project.

If the assessor discloses that they do have a conflict of interest, they will not receive any further information about the application and will not be used to assess that project or on that funding round.

A conflict of interest can exist where there is a possibility of a personal benefit (or to someone else) and could affect the decision-making process. It could be an actual conflict, a perceived conflict (i.e. others might see a conflict), or a potential conflict (i.e. a situation that could eventuate into an actual conflict).

## What if I have a conflict of interest with an assessor?

Similarly, production and development funding applicants must also disclose whether they have a conflict of interest relating to any of the assessors in advance of their engagement.

The NZFC will prompt you at the time of application to review the aggregated published list (<https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/resources/external-assessor-process-production-and-development-funding>) online and disclose any conflict of interest you may have.

If you identify a conflict with any assessor and advise us, the NZFC will ensure that your application is not assessed by that person/s.

## How can I be sure my application will remain confidential?

All External Assessors are contractually bound by confidentiality obligations. They are given time restricted access to review your application and provide feedback. After completing their assessment, the assessor will no longer have access to the application.

## Can I get a copy of the assessment?

Applicants may request a copy of the anonymised assessments via emailing us at [development@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:development@nzfilm.co.nz)

## Can I get the name of the assessor of my application?

No. The NZFC keeps the identity of the individual assessor engaged to assess an application confidential to maintain their professional privacy.

## Can assessors apply for NZFC funding?

Yes, but to ensure impartiality of assessments an assessor cannot be engaged as an assessor for the funding round they are applying for.

## I'd like to be an assessor, what do I do next?

If you are interested in becoming an assessor, please get in touch by emailing [development@nzfilm.co.nz](mailto:development@nzfilm.co.nz). Please note that from time to time the NZFC runs Script Assessor Training, which might interest you.