



8 February 2023

23 JANUARY 2023: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 23 January 2023, you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. All information (including correspondence) held relating to the release date of the film '*Pearl*'
2. All information related to taxpayer funding provided to '*Pearl*', not limited to costs under the Screen Production Grant.

On 25 January 2023, the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) supplied you with information regarding taxpayer funding provided to *Pearl*. Following this, you advised the NZFC that you were withdrawing Part 2 of your request but would still like to seek Part 1 of the request.

A response to Part 1 of your request is below:

The NZFC does not hold any correspondence in relation to the New Zealand release date of the film *Pearl*.

Following your media request on 10 January 2023, the NZFC made enquiries about the New Zealand release date for *Pearl*, however, did not receive any definitive answer or response. The NZFC then conducted online research about the theatrical release of *Pearl* and found that there were no release dates published. Based on this information, you were advised on 24 January 2023 that there is not a New Zealand date for theatrical release for *Pearl* as yet.

To be eligible for the New Zealand Screen Production Grant (NZSPG) – International, the applicant must provide proof of distribution with their final application, however, this does not have to be proof of distribution in New Zealand. The applicant supplied a letter from A24 Films confirming they held world-wide distribution rights for *Pearl* and had in place “a confirmed distribution plan for theatrical release”.

We note that the purpose of the NZSPG-International (including the PDV Grant) is to provide economic and industry development benefits to New Zealand by incentivising screen production (and the resulting production expenditure in New Zealand) that would not have otherwise been made here.

Tayla Hancock

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New Zealand Film Commission**