

23 November 2023


26 October 2023: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

In your email dated 26 October 2023 you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I request the following information from the New Zealand Film Commission under the Official Information Act - in relation to productions on the topic of the March 15 terror attack in Christchurch.

- 1. A detailed breakdown of how many scripts (drafts or otherwise) or expressions of interest NZFC has received in relation to productions on the topic of the March 15 terror attack in Christchurch.
Particulars: Copy of all scripts, copy of all EOIs, time/date, name of production company/producers.
Dated between March 1, 2019 and today's dates*
- 2. A detailed log of meetings between NZFC representatives and script producers and/or any other associated members in relation to productions on the topic of the March 15 terror attack in Christchurch.
Particulars: All correspondence between parties.
Dated between March 1, 2019 and today's date.*
- 3. A detailed breakdown of all applications for funding in relation to productions on the topic of the March 15 terror attack in Christchurch.
Particulars: A copy of all applications, a copy of all advice (and assessments) sought and received by NZFC in consideration of applications, a copy of all decision letters.
Dated between March 1, 2019 and today's date.*

The New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) has received similar requests for information in relation to film projects on the topic of the March 15 terror attack in Christchurch. You may find our responses which release information dated between 1 March 2019 and 19 July 2021 on the NZFC website at: <https://www.nzfilm.co.nz/requests-official-information>.



Information in the scope of your request dated 20 July 2021 to 26 October 2023 can be found at **Appendix 1**. Certain information has been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA: to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In the April 2019 round of Catalyst Short Film Funding, the NZFC received an application for a short film project based in Christchurch. Themes explored in the film had close similarities to the March 15 terror attack, however, the project was not specifically about the events that happened on that day; therefore, we have deemed this out of the scope of your request. In any case, information about this project would be withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA: where the release of this information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information and the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

In September 2022, the NZFC approved \$633,513 of production funding for feature documentary *fiftyone*, produced by Virginia Wright, Bariz Shah and Saba Afrasyabi, directed by Gaylene Barnes, Bariz Shah and Saba Afrasyabi and written by Gaylene Barnes. The documentary follows a young Afghan-Kiwi couple's journey from New Zealand to Afghanistan to change 51 lives, including their own, in honour of those slain in the terrorist attack on 15 March 2019.

Although *fiftyone* is related to the March 15 terror attacks, the film is not specifically about the attacks, and we anticipate it may fall outside of the scope of your request. Given this, we have not included any further information about the project in this response. If you would like to request further information about *fiftyone*, please do let me know and we will process this.

We will be publishing this letter (with your personal information removed) and **Appendix 1** on the NZFC website.

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



From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#); [Jasmin McSweeney](#)
Subject: RE: Andrew Niccol call
Date: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:47:11 a.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Filenote: JM and CP held this phone meeting with Andrew Niccol, which lasted 30 minutes. The topics covered in the conversation are commercial in confidence.

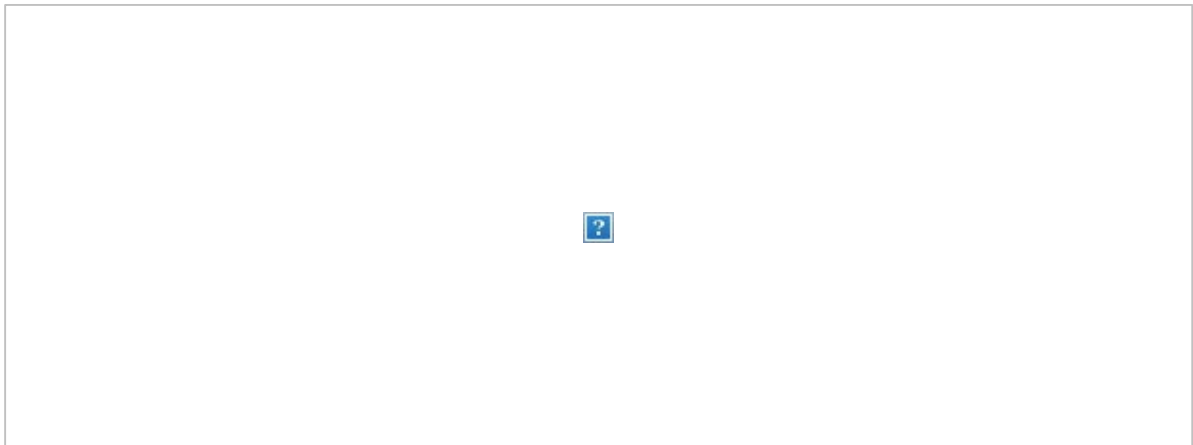
Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142
M: [REDACTED]
www.nzfilm.co.nz | ondemand.nzfilm.co.nz



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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Chris Payne
Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 1:46 p.m.
To: Chris Payne; Jasmin McSweeney
Subject: Andrew Niccol call
When: Sunday, 18 July 2021 3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).
Where: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Niccol [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 10:14 a.m.
To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin.mcsweeney@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject: Re:

Thanks, Chris.

Yes, can we have a chat Sunday, 3pm PST?

On Jul 15, 2021, at 2:00 PM, Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Andrew

Thanks for your note and sorry to miss your phone call yesterday.

I'm cc'ing my colleague, Jasmin McSweeney (Head of Marketing) with whom I work closely on our international activity (e.g. we're both participating in the Cannes virtual market currently).

Unfortunately today's a bit tricky schedule-wise for us both given Cannes meetings and other commitments here -- how are you placed to speak on Monday NZT / your Sunday?

We can call you on the number below at a time that best suits.

Noho ora mai

Chris

Chris Payne | Chief Operating Officer (Acting) & Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

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-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Niccol [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 12:45 p.m.
To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject:

Hi Chris,

Hope all is well.

Do you have a moment to jump on the phone today? I'm obviously trying to pull the film from the fire and would love to pick your brain for a minute.

My number is [REDACTED]

Thanks,

Andrew

From: [Bree Loverich](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#); [Philippa Mossman](#)
Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks
Date: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 13:33:37 p.m.
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image570118.jpg](#)
[image039647.png](#)

Thanks Chris! I have forwarded your contact to the Mayor's office.

We had a catch up with one of the producers and he seems keen to keep the dialogue open. I'll update at our next meeting.

Nga mihi nui,
Bree

Bree Loverich
Screen CanterburyNZ Manager



Screen CanterburyNZ [Website](#) & [Video](#)



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From: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 10:24 am
To: philippa.mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>; Bree Loverich
Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

[External Email]

Please report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests for sensitive information.

Hi Philippa

Many thanks for this summary.

Bree, per Philippa's comment, we're happy to re-engage with the Mayor in relation to these two other international projects, if this could be helpful.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

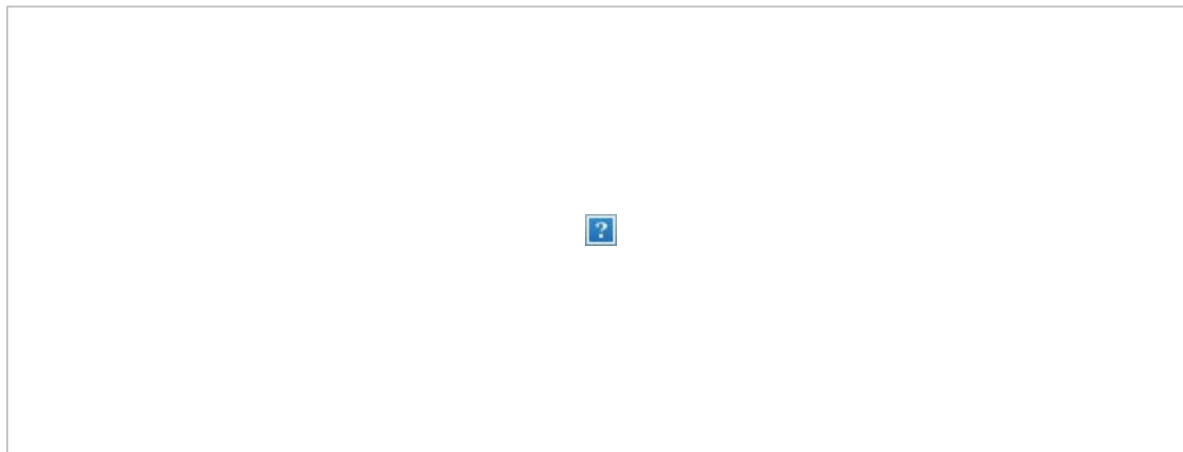
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From: Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 9:06 a.m.

To: Bree Loverich [REDACTED]

Cc: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>

Subject: FW: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

Hi Bree

Looping Chris Payne in for his info also, Chris has been corralling the various workstreams on the recent comms etc, and we and Mladen spoke with the Mayor together last week per your co-ordination.

All best,
Philippa

Philippa Mossman
NZFC
M: [REDACTED]

From: Philippa Mossman

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 7:06 p.m.
To: Bree Loverich [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

Yes fine to share and also happy if she wants to engage with NZFC directly on it too.

Philippa Mossman
NZFC
M [REDACTED]

From: Bree Loverich [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 6:23 p.m.
To: Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

Thanks!

Can I share the information below with the Mayor?

Also looks like *Hello Brother* talks have also gone cold, no mention in the media since is 2019.

Nga mihi nui,
Bree

Bree Loverich
Screen CanterburyNZ Manager

[REDACTED]

Screen CanterburyNZ [Website](#) & [Video](#)

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Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 5:44 pm
To: Bree Loverich [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

[External Email]

Please report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests for sensitive information.

Hi Bree

Early development of a third project was mentioned to NZFC in 2019 however the project is unannounced, no applications for funding have been received, nor any pitch documents or scripts. We would need to go to the producers (who are overseas) to seek any update which we do not intend to do at this point. NZFC's last contact with the producers on it was pre-Covid. We hope this provides some useful insight.

All the best,
Philippa

Philippa Mossman
NZFC
[REDACTED]

From: Philippa Mossman
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 4:49 p.m.
To: Bree Loverich [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

Hi Bree,

I'll come back to you before end of day or first thing in the morning. The third is not advanced in its development, however am establishing what information there is.

Ngā mihi nui
Philippa

Philippa Mossman
NZFC
[REDACTED]

From: Bree Loverich [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 4:26 p.m.
To: Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

True to form the Mayor has just emailed me asking about all three movies.

Whenever you get a moment to call or email, that would be great.

Nga mihi nui,
Bree

Bree Loverich

Screen CanterburyNZ Manager



Screen CanterburyNZ [Website](#) & [Video](#)

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Bree Loverich

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 10:22 am

To: Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>

Subject: RE: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

No urgent at all, I just know the Mayor will ask me about it, since it was in the paper:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/film/125704423/third-film-about-christchurch-mosque-attacks-being-developed>

Jasmin mentioned that's confidential, so I know I won't be able to reveal info, but she will be comforted that I'm at least in the loop.

From: Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 10:19 am

To: Bree Loverich

Subject: Re: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

[External Email]

Please report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests for sensitive information.

Hi Bree,

I'm not sure about any third but let me come back to you on that. Is Monday okay? (Am on leave today, but come back to you sooner if it is urgent from your perspective)

p

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Bree Loverich

Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:33:46 AM

To: Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>

Subject: 3 Movies about the Mosque Attacks

I was just reading that three international movies about the Attacks in development- Hello Brother & They are us. Is there any more information you can provide confidentially about the third one, so that I can have it on my radar?

Nga mihi nui,
Bree

Bree Loverich

Screen CanterburyNZ Manager



Screen CanterburyNZ [Website](#) & [Video](#)

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From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [Close, Ruth](#)
Cc: [Mladen Ivancic](#); [Philippa Mossman](#)
Subject: RE: Connecting Note - Lianne Dalziel (Mayor of Christchurch) | Stewart Till, CBE (Producer, They Are Us)
Date: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:45:11 a.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
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[image017.png](#)
[image018.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image020.png](#)

Hi Ruth

For courtesy, noting that Mladen, Philippa and I would like to be dropped off this email chain as we will not be part of this meeting.

Many thanks

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

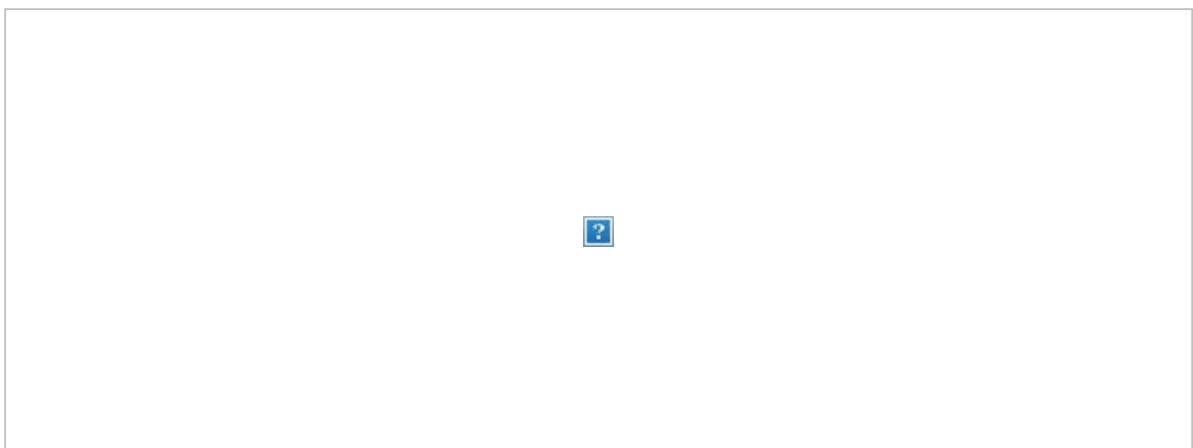
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From: Close, Ruth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:37 a.m.
To: 'stewart till' [REDACTED] Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Mladen Ivancic <mladen.ivancic@nzfilm.co.nz>; Philippa Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Connecting Note - Lianne Dalziel (Mayor of Christchurch) | Stewart Till, CBE (Producer, They Are Us)

Dear Stewart

Many thanks for agreeing to talk to Lianne on this matter. She is keen to do this this week.

Looking at the time difference between New Zealand and Los Angeles, I am assuming the best time to do this would be between 8.00am and 12.00pm NZ time/ 1.00 - 5.00pm LA time. I expect 30 minutes would be sufficient for the call.

Lianne is available at the following times:

Tuesday 20 July (Monday 19 July in LA)

8.00 - 9.30am (1.00 - 2.30pm)

11.30am -12.00pm (4.30 - 5.00pm)

Thursday 22 July (Wednesday 21 July)

8.00 - 9.30am (1.00 - 2.30pm)

11.30am -12.00pm (4.30 - 5.00pm)

If none of these times work, she is also available at 1.30 - 2.00pm (6.30 - 7.00pm) on Tuesday and Thursday.

Please let me know what you prefer.

Kind regards

Ruth Close

Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Office of the Mayor and Chief Executive

cc: [redacted]



Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154

ccc.govt.nz

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J

From: Stewart Till [redacted]

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:04 AM

To: Chris Payn : lm.co.nz

Cc: Close, Ruth Mladen Ivancic <mladen.ivancic@nzfilm.co.nz>; Philippa

Mossman <philippa.mossman@nzfilm.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Connecting Note - Lianne Dalziel (Mayor of Christchurch) | Stewart Till, CBE (Producer, They Are Us)

Ruth,

Good morning.

Would you like to suggest a time, bearing in mind that I am based in LA, that is convenient for Lianne Dalziel?

Best wishes

Stewart

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 18, 2021, at 14:45, Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Ruth and Stewart

Further to separate engagement with each of you, this is an email to connect you both directly to arrange a Zoom/call between Lianne and Stewart in relation to *They Are Us*.

By way of brief background context:

Stewart Till, CBE is a Los Angeles-based British producer and executive with extensive experience across the film industry. Till's prior roles include serving as Chairman and Chief Executive of United International Pictures, Deputy Managing Director of British Sky Broadcasting's movie channels, President of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment's international distribution arm, President of Universal Pictures International (UPI), Chairman of Icon Productions UK and CEO of Sonar Entertainment. In 1999 he was appointed Vice Chairman of the UK Film Council (the predecessor to the current British Film Institute) and then in 2004 was appointed Chair. His filmography is available on [IMDB](#).

Ruth Close is Executive Assistant to Lianne Dalziel, Mayor of Christchurch. Lianne Dalziel is serving her third term as Mayor after serving for 23 years in the New Zealand Parliament, the last four terms as the Member of Parliament for Christchurch East. Lianne served for two and a half terms as a Cabinet Minister in the fifth Labour Government (1999 to 2008) under the leadership of Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Helen Clark. An extended bio for Lianne Dalziel is available on the [Christchurch City Council website](#).

Ngā mihi

Chris

[<image007.jpg>](#)

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

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Christchurch City Council

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

From: [stewart till](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#)
Cc: [Jasmin McSweeney](#); [Andrew Niccol](#); [Ayman Jamal](#)
Subject: Re: Staten nt from Andrew Niccol
Date: Monday, 26 July 2021 11:50:52 a.m.

Chris,

In turn. thank you you for forwarding your statement.

Best

Stewart

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 25, 2021, at 14:16, Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Hi Stewart

Thanks for sending this through, and for advising that we can provide Maha's contact details to third parties.

In turn, please find [here](#) a statement we issued on Thursday evening NZT.

All best

Chris

<!--[if !vml]-->

[<image002.jpg>](#)

<!--[endif]-->Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142



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From: Stewart Till [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 7:44 a.m.
To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>; Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin.mcsweeney@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Andrew Niccol [REDACTED]; Ayman Jamal [REDACTED] >
Subject: Statement from Andrew Niccol

Chris and Jasmin,

For your information please find below a statement that Andrew released on Friday.

It also answers your question, as to whether we were employing a local pr resource. As you can see Andrew has hired a freelance pr executive, Maha Moore, whose contact details are below. If you have any enquiries from the media, about contacting Andrew or any general questions about the film, please free to provide Maha's contact information.

Stewart

**Press Statement
For Immediate Release
23 July 2021**

STATEMENT BY ANDREW NICCOL

I am deeply saddened by the pain caused to the families of the victims, due to the wrongful distribution of our draft script for *They Are Us*. The script was far from final, and never intended to be shared with the affected members of the Muslim community at such an early stage.

Development of the film is on hold until full consultation with New Zealand's Muslim community has taken place.

The sole purpose of the script, which was released without permission, was to gauge interest of potential financiers. It was given to them in the strictest confidence, and all were informed that this was not intended to be the final version. All scenes in the script are placeholders until we have completed further consultation with the families.

Our hope for this film, conceived by producer Ayman Jamal, which will take years to complete, is that it will honour the survivors, and the lives lost. It will serve as a testament to the acts of heroism and sacrifice that took place on that tragic day.

It is also our intention to show the world how a nation can respond to such a tragedy. New Zealand's embrace of its Muslim community is a testament to the strength of human solidarity and compassion.

From its inception, we wanted to tell the story of how an unprecedented act of hatred was overwhelmed by an outpouring of love.

We are committed to ensuring that the voices of the affected Muslim community, and the voices of the wider community, will be heard before moving forward.

###

For more information, please contact:

Maha Moore

Media Representative

m.mmoorepr@gmail.com

021 027 01614

From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [Jasmin McSweeney](#); [Chris Payne](#)
Subject: RE: Could we organise another zoom call
Date: Wednesday, 25 August 2021 6:28:29 p.m.

Filenote: JM and CP held this Teams meeting with Stewart Till, which lasted 45 minutes. The topics covered in the conversation are commercial in confidence.

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142
[REDACTED]
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-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Payne
Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 3:48 p.m.
To: Stewart Till [REDACTED]
Cc: Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin.mcsweeney@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Could we organise another zoom call

Hi Stewart

No problem at all.

Let's go with 12:30pm Wednesday 25 August NZT for 30 mins -- I'll send a Teams meeting request now.

All best

Chris

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142
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-----Original Message-----

From: Stewart Till [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 1:23 p m.
To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin mcsweeney@nzfilm.co nz>
Subject: Re: Could we organise another zoom call

Chris and Jasmin,

My misunderstanding.

Today is difficult.

Tomorrow I am free 9.30- 11am and 12.30- 1.30pm

Thursday I am free 9.30am- 12.30pm

I would not think we will need more than 30 minutes.

All days and times NZST.

Best

Stewart

> On Aug 23, 2021, at 5:55 PM, Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co nz> wrote:

>

> Hi Stewart

>

> Apologies - the times I mentioned below are *today*. We can both speak at 1pm (i.e. in five mins' time) if that suits? If it's tomorrow I'll need to supply new times, as while Jasmin is free at 1pm tomorrow I have another commitment.

>

> All best

>

> CP

>

> Chris Payne | Head of International Relations New Zealand Film

> Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St,

> Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Stewart Till [REDACTED]

> Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 12:51 p m.

> To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co nz>

> Cc: Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin mcsweeney@nzfilm.co nz>

> Subject: Re: Could we organise another zoom call

>

> Chris and Jasmin,

>

> 13.00 (Wednesday) NZST / 18.00 PDT (Tuesday) is great.

>

>> On Aug 23, 2021, at 2:57 PM, Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

>>

>> Hi Stewart

>>

>> Certainly -- we're in lockdown here and working from home, but Jas and I have good availability across the day for a Teams meeting.

>>

>> Would one of the following windows work for you?

>>

>> 13:00-13:30 NZST | 18:00-18:30 PDT

>> 14:30-15:00 NZST | 19:30-20:00 PDT

>> 16:30-17:00 NZST | 21:30-22:00 PDT

>>

>> Let us know what suits best and I'll send a meeting request with Teams link.

>>

>> All best

>>

>> Chris

>>

>> Chris Payne | Head of International Relations New Zealand Film

>> Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St,

>> Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

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>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Stewart Till

>> Sent: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 4:57 a.m.

>> To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>; Jasmin McSweeney

>> <jasmin.mcsweeney@nzfilm.co.nz>

>> Subject: Could we organise another zoom call

>>

>> Chris and Jasmin,

>>

>> Although I haven't news of any significant developments, I think it might be useful too update you on our plans and our current thinking.

>>

>> If you agree, would you like to suggest a convenient time?

>>

>> Stewart

>

From: [Jasmin McSweeney](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#)
Subject: Fwd: Could we organise another zoom call
Date: Tuesday, 24 August 2021 8:08:28 a.m.

I think it is important we continue to track this project even though we don't know if it will come into the NZFC or not for funding. And then in turn we can keep the Govt updated.

Jasmin McSweeney (she/her)
Head of Marketing
New Zealand Film Commission
[REDACTED]

iSent this from my iPhone

From: Stewart Till [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 4:57:27 AM
To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>; Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin.mcsweeney@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject: Could we organise another zoom call

Chris and Jasmin,

Although I haven't news of any significant developments, I think it might be useful too update you on our plans and our current thinking.

If you agree, would you like to suggest a convenient time?

Stewart

From: [stewart till](#)
To: [Chris Payne](#)
Cc: [Jasmin McSweeney](#)
Subject: Re: Are you available sometime for acall.
Date: Thursday, 4 November 2021 2:19:21 p.m.

Great.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 3, 2021, at 21:18, Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Thanks, Stewart – I've sent you a meeting request with Teams link for that time.

All best

Chris

<!--[if !vml]-->

[<image002.jpg>](#)

<!--[endif]-->Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street, Wellington 6142

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[<image003.png>](#)

[<image004.png>](#)

[<image005.png>](#)

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[<image006.jpg>](#)

From: stewart till [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 November 2021 1:48 p.m.
To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>
Cc: Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin.mcsweeney@nzfilm.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Are you available sometime for acall.

Chris,

I am on EST, so 11am Friday for you and Jasmin - 6pm on Thursday for me is perfect.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 3, 2021, at 20:42, Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz> wrote:

Hi Stewart

Good to hear from you.

How are you placed tomorrow (Friday) NZT during one of the following windows for a Teams meeting with Jas and me?

- 11:00-11:30am NZT
- 12:00-1:00pm NZT
- 2:30-5:30pm NZT

Let us know if one of these works and I'll send a meeting request with Teams link. Alternatively, if next week is better let us know some options that suit you.

All best

Chris

<[image002.jpg](#)>

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations
New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga
Level 3, 119 Ghuznee St, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 11546, Manners Street,
Wellington 6142

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<[image003.png](#)>

<[image004.png](#)>

<[image005.png](#)>

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<[image006.jpg](#)>

-----Original Message-----

From: Stewart Till [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 4 November 2021 12:22 p.m.

To: Chris Payne <chris.payne@nzfilm.co.nz>

Cc: Jasmin McSweeney <jasmin.mcsweeney@nzfilm.co.nz>

Subject: Are you available sometime for a call.

Chris and Jasmin,

We had a constructive discussion with Lianne and the March 15th group.

So on the back of that 'meeting' I am keen to update you on our thinking on They Are Us..

Could we schedule a call?

From: [Chris Payne](#)
To: [Jasmin McSweeney](#); [Chris Payne](#)
Subject: [Filenote] Stewart Till Conversation (via Teams - CP and JM)
Date: Friday, 5 November 2021 1:08:05 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Recent call Lianne Dalziel set up with members of the Muslim community – singularly impressive people, individual pain was staggering, really polite and listened, 50 mins of Zoom call.

Pain was really sincere and quite intimidating to be honest.

Journalist only showed them the opening pages of the script.

Andrew realises too aggressive and violent and will rewrite opening (reduced killing, less overt murder, etc.).

Wouldn't feature people if they didn't want to be in the film.

Though people still don't want the film to be made – they listened to themes including gun control etc.

Not giving up on project, but no timing/timeline forward.

Last Friday AN, AJ and ST conversation = they agreed all still want to make the film.

AJ needs to get the people from the mosques onboard or not – if vast majority don't want to be involved, then they may make a film about that week and the country's reaction to it without the pain etc.

Market partners in holding pattern re: continuing involvement.

ST aware of Select Committee.

Chris Payne | Head of International Relations

New Zealand Film Commission | Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

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