



5 June 2024



#### 20 MARCH 2024: OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I am writing to advise that the New Zealand Film Commission (NZFC) received your letter regarding the Jacinda Ardern Documentary on 20 May 2024. The NZFC has processed your request under the Official Information Act 1982.


In this letter, you requested the following information:

*Can you tell me if the Commission found out the content was going to be objective before coming to this decision?*

In February 2024, the NZFC approved Feature Film Production Investment (FFPI) of \$800,000 to *The Untitled PBK and JP Project* (formerly referred to as *Jacindamania*).

When assessing a funding application for FFPI, a robust and rigorous process is followed that is consistent with the Feature Film Production Investment Funding Guidelines and the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978. NZFC staff provide recommendations and the NZFC Board makes the final decision for this level of funding.

The NZFC followed the standard assessment process when considering the application for *The Untitled PBK and JP Project*. Applications for FFPI must include a script or documentary treatment, so NZFC was aware of the content of the project before making the funding decision. Recommendations to the Board on investment decisions highlight any risks associated with investment, which in this instance, included the aspect of political neutrality. The minutes from the Board meeting where the decision was made states "When making a decision on the application for this project, the Board discussed the political risk. Mitigating factors were that J Ardern remains uninvolved and the focus of the documentary is on social media vitriol and extreme environment."



We will be publishing this letter (with your personal information removed) 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*

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

