

21 April 2026



Our ref: OIA 2526-1048

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Response to your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 29 March 2026 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am referring to the below newsletter from the NZ Taxpayers Union.

Please treat the following as an OIA request:

- 1. Has the Ministry for Ethnic Communities or any of the entities or funds it controls at any point in time dedicated funding towards a pro-Palestinian campaign?*
- 2. If so, how much funding was dedicated to the campaign?*
- 3. When was the funding approved and when was it paid out?*
- 4. Who received the funding?*
- 5. Please provide the briefing/report/memo etc. that officially approved the campaign.*
- 6. Please provide the key document that describes the focus and content of this campaign.*
- 7. Please provide the legal basis of the funding.*
- 8. Please provide the name of the Ministry's division and the name of the General Manager in whose responsibility the decision to provide this funding was made. As you will be aware, names of high-ranking officials cannot be withheld under the OIA.*

In response to question one of your request, the Ministry administers the Ethnic Communities Development Fund (ECDF). The ECDF does not, and is not intended to, support political campaigning or activities outside its published purpose, eligibility, and funding criteria. As such, question two to eight are refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

However, as the newsletter provided in your request refers to the Asturlab Cultural Centre '4 for 40 Stop the Silence Campaign' grant, the Ministry has provided some context below to support your request.

Asturlab Cultural Centre was awarded an ECDF grant of \$30,000 to support a short-term initiative delivered between December 2023 and February 2024. The application described community engagement, moderated discussions, youth activities, and digital content to support respectful dialogue, including engagement with Muslim, Jewish and other communities. The funding was approved on 1 December 2023 and paid out on 13 December 2023.

The grant was assessed against the ECDF published purpose, eligibility and funding criteria and was approved based on the information provided at the time. For further information on ECDF purpose, eligibility and funding criteria, please see the Ministry's Policy and Administrative Guidelines 2023 at [Policy and Administrative Guidelines 2023](#).

The Ministry is taking concerns raised about this grant seriously. Consistent with ECDF policy, we have initiated the complaints process. As this process is currently underway, we are unable to comment further at this stage. Outcomes will be communicated appropriately at their conclusion.

Under section 28 of the OIA, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team:

Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services

Proactively released by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities