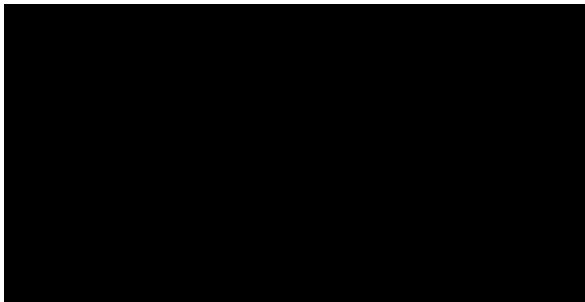


15 December 2022



#### **Official Information Act #22.083 - Response**

1. We refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (**OIA**) request received on 17 November 2022 for information about Commerce Commission (**Commission**) engagement with the following firms, during the period from 1 January 2020 to the date of your request (**relevant period**):
  - 1.1 Capital Government Relations
  - 1.2 Thompson Lewis
  - 1.3 Sherson Willis
  - 1.4 Draper Cormack
  - 1.5 Saunders Unsworth
  - 1.6 Cosgrove & Partners Ltd
  - 1.7 Barton Deakin
  - 1.8 Hawker Britton
  - 1.9 Anacta Consulting(together, **the relevant firms**).
2. The scope of your request is:
  - 2.1 All communications, including emails and correspondence, exchanged with representatives of the relevant firms during the relevant period.

- 2.2 The amount of money paid to each of the relevant firms in each year during the relevant period.
- 2.3 The number of meetings, listed by date, between a member of the Commission and any representative of the relevant firms during the relevant period.
- 2.4 All reports, submissions, talking points, advice, memos, briefings, media training materials, preparation material for select committees, crisis management advice, strategic business advice and analysis, advice on regulatory and legislative decisions and political intelligence including information, biographies and profiles of Ministers, MPs and members of the public service, provided to the Commission by the relevant firms during the relevant period.

### **Our response**

- 3. We have decided to grant your request. We note the Commission has not contracted any of the relevant firms during the relevant period.

### **Communications**

- 4. In response to paragraph [2.1] of your request, all communications with representatives of the relevant firms during the relevant period are listed at **Appendix A** below and contained in the Box.com link provided.
- 5. We note that we have included correspondence where a representative of one of the relevant firms has been copied into correspondence with the Commission during the relevant period.

### **Expenditure**

- 6. In response to paragraph [2.2] of your request, the Commission has not made payment to any of the relevant firms during the relevant period.

### **Meetings**

- 7. In response to paragraph [2.3] of your request, the Commission met with representatives from Saunders Unsworth twice during the relevant period.
  - 7.1 On 31 October 2022, the Commission's General Manager Competition (Antonia Horrocks), Cartels Manager (Grant Chamberlain) and Engagement and Operations Manager (██████████) met with Charles Finny from Saunders Unsworth. Mr Finny requested the meeting to update the Commission on issues impacting ports and supply chain.
    - 7.1.1 The documents relevant to the 31 October meeting are CC.0012, CC.0017, CC.0334, CC.1752, CC.1753, CC.1757, CC.1765, CC.1767, CC.1769, CC.1771, CC.1941, CC.1942, CC.1943, CC.1946, CC.2047,

CC.2053 and CC.2741 (handwritten notes from the meeting) listed at Appendix A below and contained in the Box.com link provided.

7.1.2 A typed note of the 31 October meeting is provided at **Appendix B** below.

7.2 On 15 November 2022, the Commission's General Manager Competition, Principal Adviser Engagement and Operations ( ) and Principal Investigator ( ) met with Paul Muller, Chief Executive of the Australia New Zealand Screen Association (ANZSA). Joanna Murray from Saunders Unsworth attended the meeting. The ANZSA requested the meeting in relation to consultation on Commerce Amendment Act Guidelines.

7.2.1 The documents relevant to the 15 November meeting are CC.0006, CC.0014, CC.0015, CC.0023, CC.0026, CC.0030, CC.0306, CC.0343, CC.0344, CC.0345, CC.0346, CC.0688, CC.0689, CC.0690 and CC.0691.

### **Information provided to the Commission**

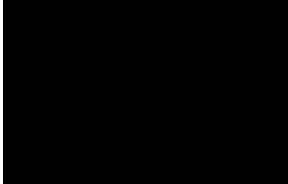
8. In response to paragraph [2.4] of your request, the Commission has not received any reports, submissions, talking points, advice, memos, briefings, media training materials, preparation material for select committees, crisis management advice, strategic business advice and analysis, advice on regulatory and legislative decisions and political intelligence including information, biographies and profiles of Ministers, MPs and members of the public service, from any of the relevant firms during the relevant period.
9. Following the meeting on 15 November 2022, the ANZSA provided the Commission a copy of its submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) in response to the ACCC's draft Guidelines on repeal of ss 51(3) of the Australian Competition and Consumer Act 2011 (document CC.0346.0001 listed below and contained in the Box.com link provided).

### **Further information**

10. We have withheld the direct dial and/or mobile telephone numbers from documents CC.0026, CC.0030, CC.0306, CC.0346, CC.0689 and CC.1020 under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
11. We consider that good reason exists for withholding this information and is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available (section 9(1) of the OIA).
12. If you are not satisfied with the Commission's decision to withhold this information, section 28(3) of the OIA provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this decision. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

13. Please note the Commission will be publishing this response to your request in the OIA register on our website.<sup>1</sup> Your personal details will be redacted from the published response.
14. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [oiacomcom.govt.nz](mailto:oiacomcom.govt.nz) if you have any questions about this request.

Yours sincerely



OIA and Information Coordinator

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<sup>1</sup> <https://comcom.govt.nz/about-us/requesting-official-information/oia-register>

Appendix A				
Document ID	Date	Document	Firm	Redactions
CC.0004	14/02/2020	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1020	22/04/2020	Email	Sherson Willis	s 9(2)(a)
CC.0018	26/07/2021	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0023	10/05/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0006	11/05/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0014	03/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0015	03/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1942	10/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1946	13/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1943	13/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1941	20/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1753	20/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1767	20/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1771	20/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1769	20/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	

Appendix A				
Document ID	Date	Document	Firm	Redactions
CC.1757	20/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1752	20/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0689	28/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	s 9(2)(a)
CC.0026	28/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	s 9(2)(a)
CC.0030	28/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	s 9(2)(a)
CC.2047	31/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.2053	31/10/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.1765	31/10/2022	Meeting invitation	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.2741	31/10/2022	Meeting notes (handwritten)	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0012	01/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0017	01/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0345	07/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0688	09/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0691	09/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0690	09/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	

Appendix A				
Document ID	Date	Document	Firm	Redactions
CC.0343	14/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0344	14/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0346	17/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	s 9(2)(a)
CC.0346.0001	29/07/2019	Submission (ANZSA)	Saunders Unsworth	
CC.0306	17/11/2022	Email	Saunders Unsworth	s 9(2)(a)