

Jane Wrightson

From: Jane Wrightson
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2011 12:09 p.m.
To: 'Stephen McElrea'; Neil Walter
Subject: Drinnan

... has been on to me about the child poverty doco and reputed tensions between us and TV3. I told him what we told TV3, that the issue for us was the scheduling of this programme in election week, and how we were deeply unhappy that this had threatened our status as being political neutral. I noted that we funded a range of docos on many subjects, and with many POVs, and that the scheduling of this one was the issue for us.

He challenged me several times on the neutrality issue, specifically mentioning Stephen again, and how therefore NZOA could not be neutral. I said that our displeasure re the scheduling was a whole-of-Board view, also shared by me, that all members were appointed by the Minister of the day, and that as a crown entity we are completely neutral. [I did not get in to any discussion regarding individual members, and he didn't press me on that, knowing that we never comment on individuals]

Doubtless something in Herald tomorrow. Just a head's up.

Jane

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