



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister
Minister of Tourism

Ministerial Services
Minister in Charge of the
NZ Security Intelligence Service
Minister Responsible for the GCSB

20 DEC 2012

Joshua Van Veen
Researcher
New Zealand First Leader's Office
Bowen House
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Joshua Van Veen

Official Information Request Relating to the Economic Benefits of *The Hobbit* Films to New Zealand

I refer to your request of 22 November 2012 for:

- *"Any and all reports you have received either in ... [the Prime Ministers] capacity as Prime Minister or Minister of Tourism detailing the economic benefits of The Hobbit films to New Zealand;*
- *Evidence of the creation of 3000 jobs as a result of The Hobbit films."*

Enclosed is the only information identified as being relevant to your request which is some email correspondence between this Office and Wingnut Films Limited. Some names and contact details have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act as withholding the information is necessary *"to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons"*.

No public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff

From: ;@wingnutfilms.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 October 2011 9:25 a.m.
To:
Subject: Re: people working on both Hobbit movies

Hi

3000 is a good number.

We have 1000 on payroll at the studio, 1000 at Weta Digital, and nearing 1000 across Weta Workshop, Park Road Post, related companies and casual contractors.

Then of course there's the flow-on. We're about to take 700 people on the road for the next 9 weeks. In terms of hotel/motel room nights and boosts to small town economies (Matamata, Te Kuiti, Piopio, Ohakune, Twizel etc) that's pretty huge.

Cheers,

On 21/10/2011, at 9:21 AM ; wrote:

Hi:

The PM was asking yesterday for the total number of people who will work on both Hobbit movies.

The context is if he's asked about Labour's industrial relations policy and how it might impact on the NZ film industry he can say something like "about 3000 people will work on the Hobbit movies, if that policy had been in place then all those people might never have got a job"

Would it be possible to get an estimated number? Just to the nearest 500 or 1000 would be fine.

Cheers,

Senior Advisor - Office of the Prime Minister
9th Floor, Beehive | Wellington NZ |