

Office of Hon Nicola Willis

Minister of Finance
Minister for the Public Service
Minister for Social Investment
Associate Minister of Climate Change



Andrew Ecclestone
Deputy Chair, New Zealand Council for Civil Liberties
By email, cc civil society organisation co-signatories

andrew@nzcl.org.nz

Dear Mr Ecclestone,

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2024, with suggestions for improving New Zealand's Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2025.

I note the evidence suggests New Zealanders are far more likely than people in other OECD countries to share optimism that our political system allows them to have a say in what government does.

I do not believe a contestable fund, as the one you suggest, is needed to make government more responsive to its citizens.

My view is that the best thing government agencies can do to demonstrate attention to the concerns of our citizens is to deliver the better results they seek. This includes driving better value for public spending, demonstrating accountability for outcomes and prioritising action over bureaucratic process.

I disagree with your suggestion that a co-created work programme is needed to ensure a responsive government.

I look forward to driving tangible outcomes for New Zealanders with better public service delivery and remain focused on ensuring taxpayers dollars are harnessed to that effect.

Thank you again for writing to me with your suggestions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis'.

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for the Public Service