



**SCREEN
INDUSTRY GUILD**
AOTEAROA • NEW ZEALAND INC

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

6/11/2017

Dear Minister

It was very kind of you to give us so much of your time and attention during the first week of the new Labour Government. I think that inviting the film industry to share perspectives on the “Hobbit Act” with you, before the boxes in your office were fully unpacked, was a true demonstration of your commitment to the industry. Your invitation to include us in the policy process as you move forward was welcomed and we would like to assure you that we anticipate working with you and your officials collaboratively and constructively.

As you know, the film sector is a vibrant and dynamic component of the New Zealand economy. We represent well paid jobs, globally ground-breaking technology and an articulation of local culture and innovation that is acknowledged around the world. The Screen Industry Guild of Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated is an association of the people who work on and around film sets and production facilities. We are excited to be directly involved with some massive projects like Disney’s production of “Mulan” and the Avatar sequels, worth over \$500 million dollars to the local industry in the near future. This in addition to many smaller local projects which are lower profile but which are of immense value to the sector and to New Zealand.

Because of the financial and time commitments associated with film projects, studios and investors require certainty with respect to the terms and conditions relating to those who work in the industry. In this context, it is vital that those terms and conditions reflect the unique and often fluid nature of a film set. No one-size-fits-all approach can adequately address a scene that can change due to weather, light, actor availability, financial constraints, technological developments, envisioned plot twists, creative evolution and commercial considerations.

Put simply, our interests are quite clear. New Zealand technicians have worked as independent contractors for over thirty years. We are self-regulating, function incredibly well as an industry and wish to continue working that way. In due course, we would like to see some form of policy regarding our members which recognises the unique and unusual logistics of crewing a set, assures studios that the rules won't change once the terms of reference for a project are agreed and which makes New Zealand a more attractive option than other countries against whom we aggressively compete.

Be assured that, as an industry, we prefer to keep drama on the set as opposed to off the set.

Yours Sincerely

Sioux Macdonald
Vice-President
Screen Industry Guild of Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated