



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry Ōwhiri

5 September 2019

David Johnston
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Dear David Johnston

I refer to your email of 12 August 2019 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"...Can you please provide any emails, memos or other documents, in the year 2019 that include any deliberation and decisions of whether either the travel advisory status of the United States as a destination should be updated, or if the accompanying safetravel.govt.nz advisory text (eg. <https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/united-states-america>) should be updated or what its wording should be."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade produces the New Zealand Government's official travel advice, which is published on the SafeTravel website at <https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/united-states-america>. At the top of this webpage it is noted that this advice was reviewed on 19 November 2018 and was still current at 21 August 2019.

The Ministry currently maintains 136 travel advisories, all of which are reviewed annually.

Attached is a document relevant to your request. Some portions of the document are withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

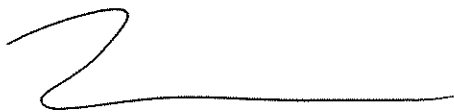
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents may be published on the Ministry's website.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a long horizontal line.

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade