

23 March 2020

C Watson
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Dear C Watson

I refer to your email of 24 January 2020 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Please supply the itinerary for the trip to the recently completed trip to the Philippines that the leader of the opposition (Simon Bridges) and accompanying MPs. Simon Bridges claimed that MFAT prepared most of it therefore I would like to know which parts MFAT prepared."

On 24 February 2020 we wrote to you to advise that the timeframe for our response would be extended to 23 March 2020. This was because consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that we could not make a proper response within the original timeframe (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

We have made a decision on your request. Some portions of the documents will be withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(d): to endanger the safety of any person; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

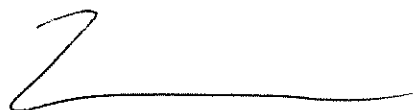
Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

We will endeavour to provide you with the documents at issue as soon as possible.

A large number of Ministry staff is currently working on issues relating to the impact of COVID-19, which is putting pressure on business as usual work, however we are doing our best to process all of our OIA requests as quickly as possible.

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 that tapers to the right.

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade