

Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

07 SEP 2020

T Benseman
fyi-request-13436-063fd5d8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2020-151

Dear T Benseman

Official Information Act request for copies of communications between the Prime Minister and Bill Gates

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 1 August 2020. You requested (numbering added):

1. *all correspondence, meetings, phone conversations, memos, payments etc between you and Bill Gates (and his agents).*
2. *And also, between all branches of your government, and Bill Gates (and his agents) between 1/8/2019 and 1/8/2020."*

In relation to the first part of your request, please find attached a letter from Bill and Melinda Gates that was received by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, on 26 April 2018. I note that the Prime Minister did not attend the *Goalkeepers 2018* event, however, she did attend the next year during her visit to New York in September 2019. Additionally, the Prime Minister had a phone call with Melinda Gates as the Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on 17 June 2020. No minutes of the call were taken. Further information on the Prime Minister's diary can be found here:

https://www.beehive.govt.nz/search?f%5B0%5D=content_type_facet%3Aministerial_diary&f%5B1%5D=ministers%3A6363&f%5B2%5D=government_facet%3A6203

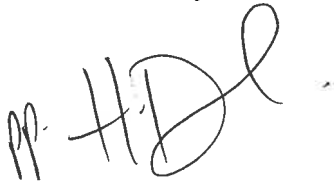
Also identified were some administrative emails between the Office of the Prime Minister and staff members of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which have been deemed out of scope.

In relation to the second part of your request, that information is not held by this office. However, I believe this information is more closely connected to the function of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer your request to the MFAT. I note that although MFAT is the agency most likely to hold information, neither MFAT or the Prime Minister's Office will be providing correspondence between all Government Departments and Bill Gates. As this will require substantial collation and research and involve an unreasonable amount of consultation.

MFAT has 20 working days from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

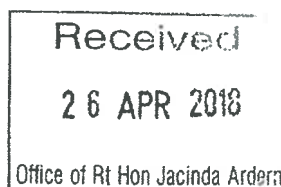
You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raj Nahna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



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April 9, 2018

Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Freepost P.O. Box 18 888
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

Dear Prime Minister,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us as a special guest and speaker at the second annual *Goalkeepers* event, to be held September 26, 2018, at Jazz at Lincoln Centre in New York City.

Goalkeepers '18 will once again coincide with the U.N. General Assembly, offering an opportunity to focus on positive progress, innovation, and leadership towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and a prosperous, healthy, and just future for all.

At the inaugural event in 2017, we welcomed an audience of 400+ established and emerging leaders for a day of discussion framed around women and girls, purpose-driven technology, and global health, while partnerships with Vice Media and Google ensured it reached millions more people around the world.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, President Barack Obama, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan, Nobel Peace Prize winners Leymah Gbowee and Malala Yousafzai shared their stories of bold leadership and innovative solutions that are driving down poverty and child deaths, while accelerating progress for the most marginalized in the world.

Several financial and in-kind commitments on women's movements, digital financial inclusion, nutrition, and community health worker programs ensured the inaugural event made a substantive contribution to progress on the SDGs.

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We offer you the stage to share your views on how the SDGs can be achieved and what role leaders in all sectors can play. This might be through the lens of a particular issue within the sustainable development agenda that you are committed to or on an innovative policy that's seeing results.

Your participation and expertise will help elevate this message and enrich the *Goalkeepers '18* program. We are hopeful you can join us.

Sincerely,


Bill Gates


Melinda Gates

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