

20 December 2021

Harold  
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OIA 27764

Tēnā koe Harold

I refer to your email of 24 October 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*I request copies of all communications (internal and external) generated by MFAT in the processing of my two OIA requests: The 19 April request transferred to the Ministry of Health (OIA 27407) and the request I submitted 4 May (OIA 27499).*

On 22 November 2021, the deadline to respond to your request was extended to 20 December 2021.

The information relevant to your request is attached. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 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, we have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

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

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade