From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC)
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 6:27 pm
To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Cc: RANGER, Peter (UNHC); RAMSDEN, Mark (PACMM)

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

(Due 14 July)

Categories: OIA 3, Transferred to GDM

Security Classification:

UNCLASSIFIED

SharePointLocationUrl: http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA

27499 Harold

SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:

http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA 27499 Harold/Acting DM UNHC APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO

Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July).msg

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Looks good to me thanks Owen.

Kathryn

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:37 PM

To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz> **Cc:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Kathryn, sending this to you in Mark's absence. Happy to discuss.

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:35 pm

To: GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) < Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz >; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC)

<Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < <a href="mailto:circle-miles-englished-nature-miles-englished-na

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you Deborah. I have prepared a new release based on your comments (see attached).

Mark – Please see Deborah's suggestions below. If you have any comments on the changes, please let me know, otherwise I will send this version to the requestor tomorrow.

Thank you everyone.

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) < <u>Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz</u>>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:26 pm

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < Gill.Myers@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Owen

I have reviewed the redacted documents and think we could release more of the material as follows:

s9(2)(g)(i)

Ngā mihi Deborah

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 9 July 2021 10:25 AM

To: GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) < Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < Gill.Myers@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning Deborah,

UNHC has prepared the first tranches of an OIA response to Harold Shine as <u>agreed</u> with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Here is the link to the coversheet, response letter, highlighted material, and redacted material for release.

We are looking to send this next Wednesday.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Thanks Deborah

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) < mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 9 July 2021 9:21 am

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz <a href="mailto:center-width-ce

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Owen,

Many thanks to you for all the support on this, and to Peter for the complex work and consultation. This interim release makes sense and I have signed the Cover Sheet (electronically).

Good to go from my perspective

Cheers

Mark Ramsden (he/him)

Divisional Manager

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E mark.ramsden@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 5:42 PM

To: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) < <u>Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz</u>> **Cc:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < <u>Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz</u>>

Subject: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon Mark,

As <u>agreed</u> with the Office of the Ombudsman, we are processing the first tranche of this OIA response to Harold Shine.

Here is the link to the <u>coversheet</u>, <u>response letter</u>, <u>Peter's highlights</u>, <u>highlighted material</u>, and <u>redacted material</u> for release.

Can you please review and confirm your approval by 12pm tomorrow if possible and I will send this to Deborah to approve and sign-out.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Thanks Mark

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

----Original Message-----

From: Harold <fyi-request-15351-6446e98d@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 4 May 2021 6:30 PM To: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Official Information request - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report: Take Two

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

For the second time, I request copies of all analysis of the WHO Covid-19 origins report, produced by MFAT or on MFAT's behalf.

On April 1st, MFAT told Reuters:

"New Zealand acknowledges that member states have expressed a number of concerns. New Zealand wants to make sure we conduct an independent analysis to ensure we understand the science before making any comment"

and:

"Our scientific experts, who have been fully engaged with the wider COVID response, are analysing the report. When they have done so, we will decide on the most appropriate way to comment on the mission"

For the avoidance of doubt, this is the analysis I'm referring to. The Ministry of Health have told me they hold no such documents, so please don't refer me to them again.

Yours faithfully,	
Harold	

This is an Official Information request made via the FYI website.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request: fyi-request-15351-6446e98d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Is enquiries@mfat.govt.nz the wrong address for Official Information requests to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:

https://fyi.org.nz/change_request/new?body=mfat

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

From: LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD)

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 9:08 am

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

(Due 14 July)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Completed

Categories: OIA 3, Transferred to GDM

Security Classification:

UNCLASSIFIED

SharePointLocationUrl: http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA

27499 Harold

SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:

http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA 27499 Harold/DM ESD APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19

origins report (Due 14 July).msg

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Owen - approved.

Can you please forward me a copy of the response email once sent.

Cheers

JA

Julie-Anne Lee (she/her)

Divisional Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

Ms9(2)(a)

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:48 AM

To: LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD) < Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

For signout

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:35 pm

To: GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) < Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz >; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC)

<<u>Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz</u>>

Cc: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)">Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you Deborah. I have prepared a new release based on your comments (see attached).

Mark – Please see Deborah's suggestions below. If you have any comments on the changes, please let me know, otherwise I will send this version to the requestor tomorrow.

Thank you everyone.

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email

Out of scope

From: ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 6:07 pm

To: O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) < Michael. O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC)

<Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) < Jocelyn. Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; SHAW, Mike (NAD) < Mike. Shaw@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Peter, confirming these additional changes are fine from a NAD perspective.

Jess.

From: O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) < Michael. O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 3:55 PM

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz >; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) < Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz >

Cc: WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) < Jocelyn. Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Peter

I've checked the text referenced in Deborah's comments and confirm AMER has no issues with unredacting the text as Deborah suggests.

Thanks and all the best

Michael

From: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:52 PM

To: ROWE, Jessica (NAD) < Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz >; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER)

<Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

FYI both – see Deborah's comments on the OIA.

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:37 pm

To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) < <u>kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz</u>> **Cc:** RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL - OIA 27499 Harold - Analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report (Due 14 July)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Kathryn, sending this to you in Mark's absence. Happy to discuss.

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:35 pm

To: GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) < Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz >; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC)

<<u>Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz</u>>

Cc: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < <a href="mailto:circle-miles-en-light-number-wind-color: blue-miles-en-light-number-wind-color: blue-miles-e

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you Deborah. I have prepared a new release based on your comments (see attached).

Mark – Please see Deborah's suggestions below. If you have any comments on the changes, please let me know, otherwise I will send this version to the requestor tomorrow.

Thank you everyone.

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email



From: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC)

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 6:44 pm

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) **Subject:** RE: OIA's for your review

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

I've added my signature to the cover sheets so I think that's it!

Thanks again Peter

Mark Ramsden (he/him)

Divisional Manager

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

Ms9(2)(a)

E mark.ramsden@mfat.govt.nz

From: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 6:18 PM

To: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) < Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: OIA's for your review

[RESTRICTED]

Thanks Mark for taking a look at these OIAs.

A few quick points:

- I have gone through your comments on the first one, and provided or removed redactions according to your comments and as discussed.
- I made the changes you asked for on the cover sheet risk assessment document for the first OIA.
- From my cross-check, I see that none of your comments in the first OIA impact the second one.

Before I package this all up and send to Owen tomorrow morning, is there any official "sign off" or electronic signature that needs to be done by you?

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M + s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:25 pm

To: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) < Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: OIA's for your review

Importance: High

Hi Mark,

Thanks for booking some time in your calendar today to take a look at OIA's.

As mentioned earlier in the pod, there are actually two OIAs, however one is a big one that includes all the material in the second.

Out of scope

- The second OIA can be found here: OIA 27499 from Harold. This is the OIA we met with Julie-Anne about in Chris's office the other week.
 - Cover sheet and risk assessment link for this OIA can be found: here

Relevant to both OIAs, there is the *informal* analysis that I performed when reading the COVID-19 origins report. If you recall, this was my attempt to read the report so I could participate in an informed discussion with MPI and MOH. I made a number of highlights and comments on the COVID-19 origins report itself in order to facilitate my own understanding of it. The document is a pdf and does not lend well to being copied into the other links, so it **can be found separately here** (my comments are to be found in the margins, and below them the proposed redactions for these comments). As this was just my informal analysis (and not shared with MPI or MOH at any point), only myself, NAD and AMER have made redactions on it s9(2)(g)(i) that I made in the margins of that document (my highlights on the document are not redacted). I am happy to discuss this.

Thanks in advance and happy to discuss!

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 3:34 pm

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) **Subject:** RE: update on OIA

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Follow up

Categories: OIA 3

Security Classification:

UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Slightly diff – for the Harold one, we have withheld information under sections: 6 (a); 9 (2) (a); (2) (g) (i); and 9 (2) (d). This reflects the fact the former OIA is much larger in scope and had more material in it than the Harold one.

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:44 am

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: update on OIA

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Cool. Same for Harold 27499?

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M +64 21 571 247 E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email

Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 11:30 am

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)
Cc: RAMSDEN, Mark (PACMM)

Subject: OIA - for ESD

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Follow up

Categories: OIA 3

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Owen,

Thank you for your patience on these OIAs.

Out of scope

- The material with redactions for the Harold OIA can be found here: OIA 27499.
 - The Cover sheet and risk assessment link for this OIA can be found: here. This seems to have Deborah's approval on this already, so presume it was handled during the release of the submission recently.

<u>To include in the material for both OIAs:</u> my informal analysis of the COVID-19 origins report. This was my attempt to read the report so I could participate in an informed discussion with MPI and MOH. I made a number of highlights and comments on the COVID-19 origins report itself in order to facilitate my own understanding of it. The document is a pdf and does not lend well to being copied into the other links, so it <u>can be found separately here</u> (my comments are to be found in the margins, and below them the proposed redactions for these comments).

S9(2)(g)(i)

happy to discuss this.

Please let me know if you require anything further from my end,

Thanks again for all your assistance on this one!

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

Sent: Thursday, 12 August 2021 11:47 am

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Subject: RE: OIA - for ESD

Attachments: RE: OIA's for your review

Categories: OIA 7

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Owen,

I will take a look at these – what in particular do you want me to look out for?

On Mark's approval, is the attached email what you're after to confirm this?

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 11 August 2021 4:06 pm

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: OIA - for ESD

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Peter,

We have prepared the redacted information for these two OIAs:

Harold 27499

Here is the link to the tranche 2 <u>coversheet</u>, <u>response letter</u>, <u>highlighted information</u> and <u>redacted information for release</u>.

Out of scope

Can you please check the material and update the coversheet's as needed and then I will send this to sign-out. Let me know if anything needs to change.

Mark has already approved these right? So it's just to Deborah?

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email



Sent: Friday, 13 August 2021 10:43 am

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)
Cc: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC)

Subject: RE: OIA - for ESD

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Categories: OIA 7

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Owen,

Regarding the OIA from Harold (below). All the documents in this one are found in the $^{s9(2)(a)}$ so any of the comments I sent through yesterday on the $^{s9(2)(a)}$ (if mirrored in the Harold one) will also need to be reflected in the Harold OIA.

On the Response Letter, I note that it mentions we are redacting material under 6 (d) - to protect the safety of any person. I don't believe there are any redactions in the material we sent through under 6 (d), and it is not found in the cover letter.

Thanks for all your continued help,

Cheers!

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

Duplicate email

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC)

Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 12:11 pm

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC); THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Subject: RE: COVID origins OIAs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Categories: OIA 7

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

Peter- I think these are fine to just go on. We can't double check everything. Owen – trust you've just compiled what Peter has provided,

Kathryn

From: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 16 September 2021 9:50 AM

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: COVID origins OIAs

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Owen,

Apologies I was dealing with an urgent issue all of yesterday – I will look at these now. To what extent do you want me to review these? Can you let me know if ESD has double checked the redactions against UNHC's proposed ones? If I double check these closely it will take me a number of days to go through the massive one again.

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 September 2021 2:55 pm

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: COVID origins OIAs

[RESTRICTED]

Hey Peter, is this good to proceed?

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 September 2021 10:39 am

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) < <u>Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz</u>>

Subject: COVID origins OIAs

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Peter,

I have finished reviewing the material you sent through and the final releases and coversheets are below. Out of scope

OIA 27499 Harold

Here is the <u>response letter</u>, <u>coversheet</u>, <u>highlighted information</u>, and <u>redacted information for release</u>. Out of scope

Are you ok for me to send these to Victoria Hallum to sign-out as acting DS MLG.

I'll also send copies to of Out of scope 27499 to DPMC for consultation.

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD)

Sent: Monday, 20 September 2021 6:23 pm

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Subject: RE: For Approval - COVID origins OIAs

Categories: OIA 7, Transferred to GDM

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

SharePointLocationUrl: http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA

27499 Harold

SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:

http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/Ministerial Services and Reporting/OIAEnq2021/OIAE

27499 Harold/DM ESD Approval - COVID origins OlAs.msg

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Owen

Apologies - I just about lost this one in my inbox!

Approved.

JA

Julie-Anne Lee (she/her)

Divisional Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

Ms9(2)(a)

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 3:11 PM

To: LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD) < Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: For Approval - COVID origins OIAs

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Julie-Anne

These OIA response regarding the origins of COVID-19 have been prepared by UNHC and are now ready for your review and approval. There is a significant amount of material in common.

Out of scope

OIA 27499 Harold

Here is the <u>response letter</u>, <u>coversheet</u>, <u>highlighted information</u>, and <u>redacted information for release</u>.

Note: I'm also send copies to of Out of scope to DPMC for consultation.

Can you please review and email your approval or any comments by **cob next Friday 24 September 2021.**

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: HALLUM, Victoria (LGL)

Sent: Friday, 24 September 2021 3:42 pm

To: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG); THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Subject: RE: For Approval - COVID origins OIAs

Categories: OIA 7, Transferred to GDM

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

SharePointLocationUrl: http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEnq2021/OIA

Out of scope

SharePointAbsoluteFileUrl:

http://o-wln-

gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIAEng2021/OIA

Out of scope

[RESTRICTED]

Yes approved.

From: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < Gill. Myers@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 24 September 2021 2:57 PM

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz > **Cc:** HALLUM, Victoria (LGL) < Victoria. Hallum@mfat.govt.nz >

Subject: RE: For Approval - COVID origins OIAs

[RESTRICTED]

HI Owen

Victoria has reviewed these and she consulted with Mark Ramsden over some queries she had. I understand from Mark that following their chat, Victoria was happy to approve the OIA's relating to COVID origins. I've copied Victoria in so she can see what I said, but as soon as she's out of her current meeting, any time now, I will ask her to confirm via email.

Gill

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 24 September 2021 1:13 PM

To: HALLUM, Victoria (LGL) < <u>Victoria.Hallum@mfat.govt.nz</u>>

Cc: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < <u>Gill.Myers@mfat.govt.nz</u>> **Subject:** RE: For Approval - COVID origins OIAs

[RESTRICTED]

Good afternoon Victoria,

Please let me know if you have any questions on these responses, or if you need anything.

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 17 September 2021 2:40 pm

To: HALLUM, Victoria (LGL) < <u>Victoria.Hallum@mfat.govt.nz</u>>

Cc: MYERS, Gill (DS MLG) < Gill. Myers@mfat.govt.nz >

Subject: For Approval - COVID origins OIAs

[RESTRICTED]

Good afternoon Victoria,

These OIA response regarding the origins of COVID-19 have been prepared by UNHC and are now ready for your review and approval. There is a significant amount of material in common.

Out of scope

OIA 27499 Harold

Here is the <u>response letter</u>, <u>coversheet</u>, <u>highlighted information</u>, and <u>redacted information for release</u>. Out of scope

Note: I'm also send copies to of Out of scope to DPMC for consultation.

Can you please review and email your approval or any comments by cob next Friday 24 September 2021.

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Sent: Monday, 27 September 2021 5:38 pm

To: Foreign Affairs Portfolio

Cc:THORN, Jessica (Inet);SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet);AUSTIN, Jonathan (Inet)

Subject: COVID origins MFAT OIAs - 27499 Harold

Attachments: OIA 27499 Harold - Cover Sheet.docx; OIA 27499 Harold - Final Response.docx;

OIA 27499 Harold - Tranche 2.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Categories: OIA 7

Security Classification:

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

Good afternoon,

The Ministry has signed out this MFAT OIAs. We are awaiting confirmation of one point from DPMC.

I've attached the response letters, coversheet, and highlighted information only (due to size).

Can you please let me know if you have any comments by Monday 4 October 2021.

Many thanks

OIA number:	27499	Request to:	MFAT
Requester name:	HAROLD	Organisation:	FYI

Request:	For the second time, I request copies of all analysis of the WHO Covid-19 origins report, produced by MFAT or on MFAT's behalf. On April 1st, MFAT told Reuters: "New Zealand acknowledges that member states have expressed a number of concerns. New Zealand wants to make sure we conduct an independent analysis to ensure we understand the science before making any comment" and: "Our scientific experts, who have been fully engaged with the wider COVID response, are analysing the report. When they have done so, we will decide on the most appropriate way to comment on the mission"
	For the avoidance of doubt, this is the analysis I'm referring to. The Ministry of Health have told me they hold no such documents, so please don't refer me to them again.
Background and context:	s6(a)

s6(a)	

Risk assessment

Has the information been released before? If Yes, to whom and when?	All documents contained in this OIA also fall under a bigger request made by \$9(2)(a) that is still underway. Both requests have the same deadlines.
Outline of the types of information to be released	A Ministerial submission analysing the COVID-19 origins report; a summary of the interagency meeting of experts to analyse the report; emails from MPI to MFAT containing informal analyses of the report and summarising the interagency expert meeting; the COVID-19 origins report itself, containing informal analysis in the margins by MFAT.
Set out the types of information being withheld and why. Note consideration of the public interest in decisions to withhold under section 9. Is there any reputational risk to the Minister/ Ministry/ other relationships of releasing this material? What could be the harm of release? How are we mitigating it?	S6(a)

Consultation

Agencies informed/consulted:	MPI, MOH	
Posts/divisions/partners informed/consulted:	AMER /NAD	

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager Executive Services Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz From:EDILSON, Madison (Inet)

Sent: Wednesday, 29 September 2021 10:05 am

To:THORNBER, Owen (ESD)Subject:RE: Covid-19 origins oias

Categories: OIA 7

Hi Owen, just giving you a heads up that I am still working my way through these given the length – I should be done today. But I am not sure if PMO will be able to get back to you by the 4th..

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 21 September 2021 2:41 pm

To: Madison Edilson [DPMC] < Madison. Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: Covid-19 origins oias

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Hi Madi,

We are processing two OIAs relating to the origins of COVID-19 and we would like your review of the release and of the DPMC emails in particular.

Could you please arrange for a review and come back to me by cob on 4 Oct.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

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From: ENQUIRIES

Sent: Monday, 11 October 2021 10:08 am

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Subject: FW: Follow up on OIA 27499: Docs relating to analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins

report

Categories: OIA 7

Security Classification:

UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Owen,

Can you please update the requestor on his OIA status

Ngā mihi

Georgia Haslam (she/her)
Executive Services Coordinator
Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Georgia.Haslam@mfat.govt.nz

From: Harold S <HS2@mail2world.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 September 2021 12:27 pm
To: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Follow up on OIA 27499: Docs relating to analysis of WHO Covid-19 origins report

Dear MFAT,

I'm emailing to follow up on an OIA request I made throug the FYI website on 4 May, here:

https://fyi.org.nz/request/15351-analysis-of-who-covid-19-origins-report-take-two

In a 14 July letter accompanying the release of part of the relevent information, MFAT informed me that "we are processing the remainder of the information to be provided to you in a second tranche as soon as possible."

Are you able to provide me an update on when I expect to receive this second tranche?

Thanks,

Harold

From:LIUVAIE, Salati (Inet)

Sent: Friday, 15 October 2021 4:41 pm

To: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Subject: RE: REMINDER: [For review] Out of scope

Categories: OIA 7

Kia ora Owen, 27499 is good to go. Thanks for your patience!

Ngā mihi

Salati (La) Liuvaie

Private Secretary | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister for Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Pr vate Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) [mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 13 October 2021 4:26 PM **To:** La Liuvaie <Salati.Liuvaie@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: REMINDER: Out of scope

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Sorry I have your email Out of scope just waiting on 27499.

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

Out of scope

From: LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD)

Sent: Monday, 18 October 2021 4:02 pm

To:THORNBER, Owen (ESD)Subject:RE: COVID origins OIAs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Follow up

Categories: OIA 7

Security Classification:

UNCLASSIFIED

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Owen

These look good. Can you please circulate for approval before sending, including Media.

Many thanks

JA

Julie-Anne Lee (she/her)

Divisional Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a)

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD) < Owen. Thornber@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:59 PM

To: LEE, Julie-Anne (RGA, ESD) < Julie-Anne.Lee@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: COVID origins OIAs

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Julie-Anne,

These are ready for your signature and I'll circulate and send tomorrow.

OIA 27499 Harold – <u>Letter</u> and <u>release material</u> Out of scope

Thanks

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

From: THORNBER, Owen (ESD)

Sent: Tuesday, 19 October 2021 12:33 pm

To: HALLUM, Victoria (LGL); RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC); RANGER, Peter (UNHC)

Cc: MEDIA

Subject: COVID origins OIAs being sent at 5pm today

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

Categories: OIA 7

Security Classification:

IN CONFIDENCE

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hello everyone,

At some point or another, you have all been involved in either the development or approval of the response to requests from Harold and ^{s9(2)(a)} regarding COVID-19 origins. Thank you.

Consultation with DPMC and MFA office is complete, with no comments.

Here are the response letters and redacted information for release.

Out of scope

Harold – Letter and release information

Media – this is for your information.

If you have any comments, please contact me by 4.00pm today. Otherwise I will send these responses at 5pm.

Kind regards

Owen Thornber (he/him)

Unit Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz

RESTRICTED



Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request Sign-off Sheet

OIA request details

OIA due date:	14 July 2021		
Date request received:	5 May 2021	Extension:	YES
Subject:	COVID-19 WHO rep	orts	
Requester name:	Harold	Organisation:	FYI
OIA number:	27499	Request to:	MFAT

Executive S	Services Divisio	n lead:	Owen Thornber	Mobile:	021
Division:	UNHC	Lead:	Peter Ranger	Mobile:	021
Division:	Choose an item.	Lead:		Mobile:	021

Review questions

Have you considered all s	ources of information	on (incl. electronic messages)?	YES	1	NO	0
Division Lead	Name	Signature	Date			
	Peter Ranger Approved			Click or tap to enter a date.		
Do you need to declassify documents?				0	NO	0
B	Name	Signature	Date			
Document author, Div. Mgr. or above may declassify	-(2)		Click or tap to ente date.		o enter a	3
Should we publish this response on the Ministry website?				0	NO	0

Sign-out

Review required by		Y/N	Name	Approved	Date
1. Divisional Manager UNHC	O	Y	Mark Ramsden	[signed]	9 July 2021
2. Media		Y	FYI	Approved	Click or tap to enter a date.
3. Divisional Manage	ESD	Y	Julie-Anne Lee	Approved	Click or tap to enter a date.
4. SLT member DS M	G	Y	Victoria Hallum	Approved	24 September 2021
M. Tolandri Var Lvadi	Info.	Review			Click or tap to enter a
5. Minister's Office	Υ				date.