

16 August 2021

A.W. Farmer  
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OIA 27605

Tēnā koe A. W. Farmer

I refer to your email of 26 July 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*Please provide me with any advice/memos/or reports that mention Crypto AG, or it's alternatives "Thesaurus" or "Rubicon," from October 2019 to April 2020.*

*If a large volume, I am particularly interested in any advice that was prepared for any Minister of the Crown, AND any internal communication which addresses reputational harm that could be caused by the revelation that Crypto AG was co-owned by the CIA.*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) has located three documents that mention 'Crypto AG'. No advice or documentation was prepared by the Ministry in relation to Crypto AG or its alternative names 'Thesaurus' and 'Rubicon.'

The three documents in scope of your request do not contain information regarding reputational harm caused by the ownership of Crypto AG. These documents are withheld in full 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; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

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