

1 September 2021

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OIA 27622

Tēnā koe Lobby New Zealand

I refer to your email of 4 August 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

We are seeking all information about, and all communications with, any individual or group from any United Nations organisation, in regards to the recent transfer of a COVID-19 case to New Zealand.

Specifically, as to whether any of these communications altered the view of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade or contradicted the advice given from other ministries, including the Ministry of Health.

This email is to advise that we will need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 30 working days, to 13 October 2021. This is because there is a large quantity of information within the scope of your request, and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Ministry.

For your information, during COVID-19 Alert Level 3, Ministry staff are working remotely; in addition, a large number of Ministry staff are currently working on the Government's response to the situation in Afghanistan. This means that we have reduced capacity to process some OIA requests.

The Chief Ombudsman has published updated guidance on OIA requests during the COVID-19 emergency:

- [Chief Ombudsman's statement on official information response times during COVID-19 lockdown](#)(external link)
- [FAQs about official information requests during COVID-19](#)(external link)

If this process is completed before 13 October 2021, the response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade