

17 November 2021

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OIA 27719

Tēnā koe Scott

I refer to your email of 28 September 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

This is a request for information relating to the Export Controls Framework Review, which was recently published on the MFAT website.

I would like to request a copy of MFAT's action plan for implementing the recommendations of the review.

You also made a related OIA request to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, seeking information about the review process.

On 27 October, due to the necessity for further consultation, the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 15 working days, to 17 November 2021. Thank you for your patience while this process was completed.

As you have noted, the final report from the independent review of the Ministry's export controls system was released on 24 September 2021. The report made a range of recommendations that will enable the export permit system to meet current and emerging challenges and to bring it into line with contemporary best practice.

Following receipt of the final report and recommendations, the Ministry commenced planning for implementation of the recommendations. This will include the development of an implementation plan. However, this process is still underway, and a plan has not yet been fully developed.

Accordingly, your request is refused on the basis that the document does not yet exist (section 18(e) of the OIA refers). However, as you will note from the material being released to you by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, MFAT has accepted all the recommendations and is committed to expediting their implementation as soon as practicable.

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. 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie-Anne Lee', with a horizontal line underneath.

Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade