



NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Manuatu Aorere

17 December 2014

Joshua Grainger

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Dear Joshua Grainger

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act (OIA) for information regarding the Eritrean Government.

In your letter you note that it is alleged that "the Eritrean Government lobbies a voluntary 2% tax on all of their diaspora," and that this tax is "used to fund militant groups in the Horn of Africa".

Under the OIA you asked the following:

- 1. Does the New Zealand Government believe that the Eritrean Government is forcing Eritrean diaspora in New Zealand to pay this 2% tax?*
- 2. If they do, what steps is the New Zealand Government taking to prevent the enforcement of this tax?*

New Zealand takes our countering financing of terrorism responsibilities very seriously. The New Zealand government is committed to having effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating terrorist financing. Our Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009 places obligations on New Zealand's financial institutions and casinos to detect and deter money laundering and terrorism financing.

Further, as a member of the United Nations, New Zealand implements all United Nations Security Council sanctions. New Zealand implements Resolution 1907 (2009) of the Security Council of the United Nations adopted on 23 December 2009, which calls for the imposition of certain sanctions in respect of Eritrea.

Under the OIA you also requested:

- 3. Any briefings, papers, advice or other documents on the Eritrean diaspora tax, including any communications with the Eritrean Government or overseas consulates about it; and*
- 4. Copies of any complaints that have been received about the Eritrean diaspora tax (with personal details removed as to preserve privacy).*

This request has been refused under Section 18(e) of the OIA, that the information requested does not exist. We do not hold any information in relation to your request.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joana Johnston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joana Johnston  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade