

10 November 2022

Harry Peterson
fyi-request-20532-86508939@requests.fyi.org.nz

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 28292

Tēnā koe Harry Peterson

Thank you for your email of 13 September 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

all communications between MFAT regarding the appointment of Rt Hon Trevor Mallard as ambassador to Ireland.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Communications regarding a diplomatic visa*
- Communications regarding the reason for a hold up or delay in the appointment of the Rt Hon Trevor Mallard as ambassador to Ireland.*

On 12 October 2022 we wrote to you to advise you of the need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 20 working days, to 10 November 2022. This was because of the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time frame (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

This letter advises that a decision has been made on your request. The documents will be released to you with some portions of the documents withheld under the following two 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
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, it has been identified that there is no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

The relevant documents are in the final stages of preparation, and will be sent to you as soon as reasonably practicable.

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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade