

25 October 2022

Mohammed Khan

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Tēnā koe Mohammed Khan

I refer to your email of 18 September 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Recent media reports indicate that employees of this CSIS organization who likely were involved in the chain of command overseeing the sex trafficking operation are meeting in Queenstown, as a part of the broader 'Five Eyes' group.

- 1) Was MFAT involved in the organization of this visit by members of CSIS, an acknowledged child sex trafficking organization, to New Zealand? If so, please disclose all documents related to this.*
- 2) What is MFAT's policy on child sex trafficking?*
- 3) What is MFAT's policy on ISIS, the organization that CSIS were supporting by supplying their members with child sex slaves?*

On 17 October 2022, due to further consultation being required before a response could be provided, the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 5 working days, to 25 October 2022. Thank you for your patience while this process was concluded.

I have answered your questions in turn below.

- 1) Was MFAT involved in the organization of this visit by members of CSIS, an acknowledged child sex trafficking organization, to New Zealand? If so, please disclose all documents related to this.*

The New Zealand Intelligence Community was responsible for the hosting of this conference. Any details or documents regarding the organisation of the conference are withheld under section 6(a) of the OIA, as release of the information would be prejudicial to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand government.

- 2) What is MFAT's policy on child sex trafficking?*

The New Zealand Government has ratified the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*; the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, and the *Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention*.

Since then, New Zealand released the all-of-government *Plan of Action against Forced Labour, People Trafficking, and Slavery* in 2021. The Plan lists the actions the government has

committed to take to combat modern slavery, including people trafficking, both in New Zealand, or overseas.

If you would like further information about this Plan of Action, you may wish to visit the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment's website, at: www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/plan-of-action-against-forced-labour-people-trafficking-and-slavery/.

3) *What is MFAT's policy on ISIS, the organization that CSIS were supporting by supplying their members with child sex slaves?*

The Terrorism Suppression Act 2002 (TSA) provides for a list of terrorist entities to be established and maintained in New Zealand, including those entities associated with UN Security Council Resolutions 1267/1989/2253 and 1988. ISIS is designated as a terrorist entity under the Act. Such a designation freezes the assets of terrorist entities and makes it a criminal offence to participate in or support the activities of the designated entity.

Since its establishment in 2014, New Zealand has supported the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS (D-ISIS) through a number of New Zealand Defence Force military deployments, and funding from the New Zealand Aid Programme. This funding has included a focus on stabilisation efforts, removal of explosive remnants of war and reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq. New Zealand has also supported efforts to counter online ISIS communications and propaganda, through the Coalition's Communications Working Group. On 25 August 2022, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence announced the next phase in New Zealand's contribution to the D-ISIS Coalition. More information on this can be found here: [Next phase in Aotearoa NZ contribution to Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS | Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/news/next-phase-in-aotearoa-nz-contribution-to-global-coalition-to-defeat-isis).

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) 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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade