

12 October 2022

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OIA 28314

Tēnā koe Richard Wang

I refer to your email of 26 September 2022 via fyi.org.nz in which you requested the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I understand MFAT runs the so-called 'China Capable Public Sector' programme, which is supposed to support engagement with the people of mainland China and its island possessions, and their government (the PRC). It appears you have run multiple events with Ford Hart, a hostile foreigner who dislikes Chinese people.

Please provide all documents related to the decision to have Hart, a longtime servant of the American empire and its machinations against China and New Zealand with a noted dislike for the Chinese people and their government, speak to New Zealand public servants at least twice.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) does not hold the information you are requesting. Therefore we are refusing your request in full under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you have requested does not exist.

Since 2015, the China Capable Public Sector (CCPS) programme has established itself as a whole-of-government initiative to build public sector capability and collaboration to help New Zealand engage successfully in our complex and strategic relationship with China. The CCPS exists to equip public servants with China-related knowledge, expertise, and networks to make informed, effective, and efficient contributions to agency outcomes and government priorities.

Further details on the CCPS programme can be found on the China Capable Public Sector website here: <https://chinacapable.org.nz>.

In most cases, the CCPS does not deal with speakers directly. CCPS events are delivered in partnership with New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington. CCPS invites a wide range of speakers to ensure that our participants hear different perspectives. We welcomed the opportunity to hear Ford Hart's views on issues of consequence for New Zealand.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade