

Hon Peeni Henare

MP for Tāmaki Makaurau

Minister of Defence

Minister for Whānau Ora

Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health)

Associate Minister of Housing (Māori Housing)

Associate Minister of Tourism



17 JAN 2023

Scott

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Tēnā koe Scott

I refer to your email of 25 October 2022, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following documents:

ONE: [20/07/2022] "Briefing for Ukraine Defence Contact Group"

TWO: [25/07/2022] "Incoming Visits of Foreign Defence Leadership to New Zealand"

THREE: [27/07/2022] "Briefing for meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State"

FOUR: [27/07/2022] "Briefing for meeting with US Commander INDOPACOM"

FIVE: [05/08/2022] "Briefing Pack for visit to Solomon Islands"

SIX: [09/08/2022] "Briefing for Copenhagen Ukraine Conference 2022"

SEVEN: [06/09/2022] "Briefing: 8 September Ukraine Defence Contact Group Brief"

EIGHT: [07/09/2022] "Progress Update against Ministerial Priorities (1 April to 30 June 2022)"

NINE: [23/09/2022] "Aotearoa New Zealand's Assistance for Ukraine: Stocktake and Looking to the Future"

TEN: [23/09/2022] "Aide Memoire: Notification of Operation Crucible Transit of South China Sea in Oct 2022"

On 18 November, 2022, I responded to your request regarding nine of the items on the above list and informed you of the decision to extend the time for responding to item *FIVE: [05/08/2022] "Briefing Pack for visit to Solomon Islands"* by 30 working days, in order to allow the necessary consultation to take place.

The briefing material for my visit to Solomon Islands as part of the 80th Guadalcanal commemorations is now enclosed.

Certain information is withheld, as indicated in the documents and in accordance with the following grounds of the Act:

- section 6(a), as the release of this material would likely prejudice the security and defence of New Zealand, or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand

- section 6(b)(i), as the release of this information would likely prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by another government
- section 9(2)(b)(ii), would likely unreasonably to prejudices the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions

Where information has been withheld under section 9(2), it is not considered that the public interest in this information outweighs the need to protect it.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to request an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Peeni Henare
Minister of Defence