



4 April 2023

Ref: DOIA 2223-1344

Mijail Linares
fyi-request-21452-bc4af921@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mijail Linares

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2022 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. All official documents signed by any member of the Ministry, as part of the bidding process to host the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup*
- 2. Please provide a copy of all email communications, if any, between New Zealand Major Events and New Zealand Football, relating to the submission of the bid to host the tournament.*
- 3. Please provide a copy of all email communications, if any, between New Zealand Major Events and the Ministry of Sport, relating to the submission of the bid to host the tournament.*
- 4. Please provide a copy of all email communications, if any, between New Zealand Major Events and the office of the Prime Minister, that relate to the submission of the bid to host the tournament.*
- 5. Please state the precise amount of financial contributions the New Zealand government will contribute to this tournament and what is the precise source of it, within the Budget of New Zealand's government. If this figure has had any changes from its inception, can you please describe these changes in chronological order and explain the reasons for the revision?*

Please answer the following questions:

- 1. As far as the Ministry is aware, who initiated the decision to submit a bid to host the tournament?*
- 2. As far as the Ministry is aware, was the decision to enter a bid for the tournament ever opened to public debate? If not, why? If it was, please describe the extent of this effort?*
- 3. What members of the Ministry, if any, were involved in drafting the 188 page document known as the bid book?*

4. *What were the documents provided by the Ministry, as part of the submission of the bid book? Wherever possible, please provide a copy of these documents. If that's not possible, please state why.*
5. *Did New Zealand Major Events commissioned any study related to hosting the tournament? If so, please provide a copy of it.*

On the 27 January 2023 MBIE contacted you in an attempt to narrow the scope of your request for correspondence between MBI, New Zealand Football and Sport New Zealand. You had provided some additional information to help identify the content you were looking for in relation to searching for the correspondence. On 3 February 2023, MBIE extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 4 April 2023 due to the scale of the request. Following this we had then contacted you on 10 February to advise that we were unable to reduce the scale of the request despite considering the additional information you had provided us to help narrow the scope of the request, therefore, this part of the request would likely be refused under Section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I have addressed each part of your request as follows:

1. *All official documents signed by any member of the Ministry, as part of the bidding process to host the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup*

Please see the documents enclosed as per the Documents Schedule at the end of this response.

2. *Please provide a copy of all email communications, if any, between New Zealand Major Events and New Zealand Football, relating to the submission of the bid to host the tournament.*

After doing a preliminary search for the email communications that you have requested with the addition of the information that you provided to narrow the scope of the request on 28 January 2023, we have found that the correspondence that falls within the scope of your request exceeds 3500 pages. This would take a substantial amount of time and resources to review and consult on. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

3. *Please provide a copy of all email communications, if any, between New Zealand Major Events and the Ministry of Sport, relating to the submission of the bid to host the tournament.*

After doing a preliminary search for the email communications that you have requested with the addition of the information that you provided to narrow the scope of the request on 28 January 2023, as per your previous request above, we have found that the correspondence that falls within the scope of your request also exceeds 3500 pages. In addition to the search for emails between MBIE and New Zealand Football, this again would take a substantial amount of time and resources to review and consult on. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

4. *Please provide a copy of all email communications, if any, between New Zealand Major Events and the office of the Prime Minister, that relate to the submission of the bid to host the tournament.*

I can confirm that there was no direct correspondence between MBIE and the Office of the Prime Minister in relation to the bid to host the tournament. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

5. *Please state the precise amount of financial contributions the New Zealand government will contribute to this tournament and what is the precise source of it, within the Budget of New Zealand's government. If this figure has had any changes from its inception, can you please describe these changes in chronological order and explain the reasons for the revision?*

Please see the table below which shows the gradual changes in funding alongside their source allocation and reasoning in relation to the tournament.

Funding Location	Source of funding	Details, reasoning and notes	Total
FIFA MYA (Multi-year appropriation)	Initial FIFA Appropriation as of 17 July 2020	Cabinet process	\$25,000,000
FIFA MYA	Major Events Fund allocation to support venue compliance	Feb/March 2022 - Fiscally Neutral Adjustment (FNA) from Major Events Fund (MEF) to FIFA MYA To support venue upgrades to enable NZ to host the FIFA WWC	\$10,000,000
FIFA MYA	America's Cup infrastructure underspend reprioritised for FIFA	Feb/March 2022 (America's Cup underspend from AC36 MYA to FIFA MYA) To support venue upgrades to enable NZ to host the FIFA Women's World Cup	\$5,000,000
FIFA MYA	Tourism reprioritisation	September 2022 (FNA Tourism underspend to FIFA MYA) To support venue upgrades and wider Crown activity including leverage and legacy activity	\$10,000,000
Total			\$50,000,000

To answer your following questions:

1. *As far as the Ministry is aware, who initiated the decision to submit a bid to host the tournament?*

The decision to submit a bid to host the tournament was made by New Zealand Football and ratified by the New Zealand Football Board.

2. *As far as the Ministry is aware, was the decision to enter a bid for the tournament ever opened to public debate? If not, why? If it was, please describe the extent of this effort?*

The decision to submit a bid sits with New Zealand Football, and it was not opened to public debate. FIFA only accepts bids for this tournament from member federations, therefore, New Zealand Football (as the FIFA member federation in New Zealand) is responsible for the decision as well as for any processes they may choose to follow in making this decision.

3. *What members of the Ministry, if any, were involved in drafting the 188 page document known as the bid book?*

The Manager of Major Events and a Senior Advisor in the New Zealand Major Events team at MBIE were involved in collating and contributing information from across the government related to the government-controlled services and support in response to the tournament host requirements outlined in the FIFA bid file. New Zealand Major Events supported New Zealand Football with articulating the New Zealand proposal and messaging in the bid book to ensure the content was accurate at the time of the bid submission.

4. *What were the documents provided by the Ministry, as part of the submission of the bidbook? Wherever possible, please provide of copy of these documents. If that's not possible, please state why.*

Ten documents have been identified within scope of your request, as detailed in the below Document Schedule. Please note that we are refusing your request as far as it relates to one document designated #12 in the Schedule dated 1 November 2019. This particular correspondence contains advice in which providing this to you would be contrary to the provisions of the Tax Administration Act 1994. Therefore, it is refused under section 18(c)(i) of the Act, as making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment.

5. *Did New Zealand Major Events commissioned any study related to hosting the tournament? If so, please provide a copy of it.*

Please refer to the document designated #11 in the Document Schedule below. Please note that we have withheld some information under section 9(2)(j) of the act, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

Document schedule

Documents released

#	Date	Description
1	31 October 2019	Correspondence – FIFA WWC 2023_ GOVERNMENT DECLARATION_EXECUTED
2	31 October 2019	Correspondence – FIFA WWC 2023 - (LEGAL) SUPPORT DOCUMENT MINISTER TWYFORD_EXECUTED
3	5 November 2019	Correspondence – FIFA WWC 2023_ Reserve Bank Letter of Support_EXECUTED

4	29 October 2019	Correspondence - FIFA WWC 2023_DPMC_Security Approach in NZ_EXECUTED
5	29 October 2019	Correspondence - FIFA WWC 2023_DPMC_Security Letter of Support_EXECUTED
6	29 October 2019	Correspondence - FIFA WWC 2023_DPMC_Security Roles of Government_EXECUTED
7	30 October 2019	Correspondence - FIFA WWC 2023_Immigration New Zealand Letter of Support_EXECUTED
8	30 October 2019	Correspondence - FIFA WWC 2023_Telecommunications and IT Letter of Support_EXECUTED
9	30 October 2019	Correspondence - FIFA WWC 2023_MEMA and IP Letter of Support_EXECUTED
10	30 October 2019	Correspondence - FIFA WWC2023_Legal Statement_EXECUTED
11	19 November 2019	Pre-event evaluation of FIFA Women's World Cup 2023(19 Nov 2019)

Documents withheld in full

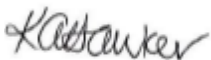
#	Date	Description
12	1 November 2019	FIFA WWC 2023 - IR Letter of Support_EXECUTED_FINAL

In terms of the withholding of information under section 9 (1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

I trust you will find this information useful.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision to refuse and/or withhold information in scope from any parts or all of your request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Kylie Hawker Green
Manager Major Events
 Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE