

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Associate Minister for Māori Development



11 May 2023

James

fyi-request-22101-ee909651@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe James

Thank you for your email of 14 March 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1- *All information including but not limited to emails, texts, and phone calls relating to your recent trip to India in February 2023, between yourself and Chris Hipkins.*
- 2- *All emails and texts between yourself or your office and the Vice President Hon Jagdeep Dhankar and her Indian Government counterparts, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda that detailing meeting arrangements and times and confirmation of meetings.*
- 3- *All texts, emails and phone calls concerning the final confirmation of the date of your travel to India.*

On 13 April 2023, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by 25 working days to 19 May 2023. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

I have interpreted the first and third parts of your request to be for information held directly by myself, as opposed to by my office. These interpretations are as follows:

- 1- *All information between **myself [Hon Nanaia Mahuta]** and Rt Hon Chris Hipkins [in his capacity as Prime Minister] relating to your recent trip to India in February 2023. This will not be limited to emails, texts, and phone calls.*
- 2- *[nil changes] All emails and texts between myself or your office and the Vice President Hon Jagdeep Dhankar and her Indian Government counterparts, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda that detailing meeting arrangements and times and confirmation of meetings.*
- 3- *All texts, emails and phone calls sent or received by **myself [Hon Nanaia Mahuta]** concerning the final confirmation of the date of my travel to India.*

Attached are the documents relevant to part one of your request. Some portions of the documents are withheld under the following 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)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments;

The following Cabinet papers are also in scope of part one of your request and are either currently available, or soon will be available, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website, via the links provided:

- CAB-23-MIN-0002 - Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/cab-23-min-002-proposed-overseas-travel-nanaia-mahuta-india-feb-2023/
- CAB-23-MIN-0090 – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/proactive-release-report-on-overseas-travel-hon-nanaia-mahuta-cab-23-min-0090

The second and third parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist. This is because meetings with Foreign Ministers are organised between Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials and their overseas counterparts. Therefore, no direct communication exists between myself, or my office, with the requested individuals.

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

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



Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minita Take Aorere / Minister of Foreign Affairs