

26 June 2023

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OIA 28668

Tēnā koe Lance Lavery

I refer to your email of 12 May 2023 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I kindly request the following information:

- 1. Comprehensive elucidation of New Zealand's current position on the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state, including the reasons for this stance.*
- 2. All documents, correspondence, or reports discussing New Zealand's position on recognising Palestine, especially given that many UN member states have already recognised Palestine.*
- 3. Any analytical or briefing materials evaluating Palestine's qualification against the international law criteria for statehood - a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capability to establish diplomatic relations with other states.*
- 4. Information on actions that New Zealand has undertaken or plans to undertake in response to the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.*
- 5. All correspondence or reports discussing the implications of recognising Palestine on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the advancement of a two-state solution.*
- 6. Any correspondence or documents assessing the potential political and diplomatic implications for New Zealand in the event of recognising Palestine as a sovereign state."*

On 26 May 2023, your request for information was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry), as the information you have requested is more closely connected to the Ministry.

On 31 May 2023, we contacted you regarding reframing your request to a manageable size. However, as we have not received a response from you within 5 working days, we are unable to proceed with your request.

Therefore, due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. This is because your request captured a significant volume of information and responding would unreasonably impact upon the Ministry's other operations.

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, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small upward stroke.

Sarah Corbett
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade