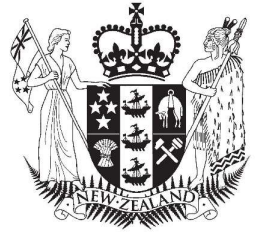


Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Racing



9 April 2024

Ms Anderson

fyi-request-25618-7aa750d3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Anderson

Thank you for your email of 3 February 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

all correspondence that you or your office has received in your capacity as Minister of Defence from the date of my last request (10 December 2023) to today, 3 February 2024 (correspondence meaning any emails and physical mail), relating to the below subjects. Please provide separate numbers for correspondence in support of Palestine vs those that are in support of Israel.

Subjects of interest:

- Gaza*
- Palestine*
- Israel's actions towards Gaza/Palestine*
- Operations in the Red Sea, or against Yemeni Houthi rebels.*

Regarding phone calls received by the Minister's office, is there a process by which concerns relating to the Minister's portfolios are relayed to him? If there is, can you please describe this?

On 8 February 2024, this office requested clarification from you that your request was intended for Foreign Affairs, rather than Defence portfolio, and that you are wanting details on the number of correspondence received, rather than the physical letters/emails. You replied on 9 February that you had meant to write to this office, and could you be provided with a definition of correspondence.

On 8 March 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 20 working days because responding to your request still necessitated a review of a large quantity of information, and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of this office (section 15A(1)(a) of the OIA refers).

For the purposes of your request, correspondence refers to all emails, letters, text messages and phone calls from members of the public.

Between 10 December 2023 to the 3 February 2024, this office has received 1,058 number of correspondence in scope of your request.

This office is unable to provide a breakdown of this correspondence along the lines you have requested, as providing resource to do so would have an unreasonable impact on this office's ability to carry out its other functions. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The Minister's office receives a number of phone calls on a daily basis. The office requests callers submit their enquiries in writing for further consideration and possible response.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Winston Peters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs