

8 August 2024

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OIA 29440

Tēnā koe F Mackenzie

We refer to your email of 8 June 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

My request pertains to the Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of New Zealand on Cooperation in Technological Innovation, Research and Development.

I would like to know whether the treaty has been ratified and if not, what is the process and timeline for the treaty to enter into force.

NZ Treaties online specifies that "The key stakeholders under the agreement are technology-focused businesses." Please specify any stakeholders that can be named outside of the Israel Innovation Authority, Callaghan Innovation, and the respective governments.

Finally, I am also requesting the release of any and all documents held by MFAT pertaining to said treaty.

On 8 July 2024, the deadline to respond to your request was extended to 12 August 2024.

Most of your request for information is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as it would require substantial collation and research in order to provide a response. However, we are providing you with the below information relevant to the following part of your request.

Ratification and entry into force of the Agreement

On 5 March 2020, New Zealand and Israel signed the *Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of New Zealand on Cooperation in Technological Innovation, Research and Development* ("the Agreement").

The Agreement has not been ratified by New Zealand. Ratification requires each party to notify the other in writing, by diplomatic channels, of the completion of their internal procedures required for bringing the Agreement into force. New Zealand's internal procedures have not yet been completed.

Most treaty action takes considerable time to conclude. More information on the process and timeline for treaties to enter into force can be found in the International Treaty Making Guide on the New Zealand Treaties Online website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/About-us-Corporate/Treaties-Model-instruments/International-Treaty-Making-Guide-2021.pdf>

Key stakeholders

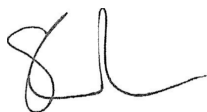
General information on stakeholders to the Agreement

- The Agreement was negotiated to better connect New Zealand to Israel's innovation system, with a focus on enabling brokered and co-funded research and development collaboration between businesses in the two countries.
- It was envisioned that Callaghan Innovation, authorised by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, would work with the Israel Innovation Authority to jointly develop and run joint calls for proposals, selection processes and matching and matching services; and cooperate on monitoring the projects selected.
- The key stakeholders under the Agreement are technology-focused New Zealand and Israeli businesses.
- Businesses are still able to collaborate on research and development outside of the Agreement.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade