

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Racing



30 August 2024

Andrew Riddell

fyi-request-27886-9437f811@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Riddell

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

On 28 July you tweeted a statement which includes condemning the attack on Majdal Shams. In the same paragraph you link Hezbollah to this attack.

What is the evidence you are relying on in linking Hezbollah to the attack on Majdal Shams?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade draws on a wide range of sources, including open source, diplomatic and intelligence reporting, when assessing developing situations in Israel and the occupied territories, including in the Israeli-Occupied Golan Heights.

The New Zealand Government condemned the attacks on Majdal Shams and in Deir al-Balah, consistent with our position that the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure during conflict is paramount and a requirement under international humanitarian law.

Information on New Zealand's response to the conflict in general, including recent statements, can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/middle-east/israel-hamas-conflict

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, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', with a small mark to the right.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs