



30 September 2024

John Wilson
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Ref: OIA-2024/25-0253

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act request relating to terrorist designations

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act (the Act), received on 18 September 2024. You requested:

I am requesting information regarding the recent attacks attributed to the Israeli state in Lebanon, where at least eight people, including a child, were killed and thousands were wounded due to exploding pagers.

1) If a specific Israeli military or intelligence group is identified as responsible for the explosions in Lebanon, will the New Zealand government consider designating this group as a terrorist organisation? Please provide details on the criteria and processes involved in such a designation.

2) Should a specific group or individuals be identified as responsible for these acts, will the New Zealand government impose sanctions on the perpetrators? Please provide information on the potential sanctions measures and the implementation process.

The first part of question [1] is not a request for official information as set out in section 2 of the Act, accordingly, a response has not been provided for this part of your request. In relation to the second part of question [1] please find the criteria and process for designation at the following publicly available link: [terrorism-designations-process-legal-framework-paper-28-08-2024.pdf \(police.govt.nz\)](https://www.police.govt.nz/terrorism/terrorism-designations-process-legal-framework-paper-28-08-2024.pdf)

I believe question [2] is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Accordingly, I have decided to transfer this part of your request to MFAT under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. MFAT has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā

Bridget White
Executive Director
National Security Group