

2 December 2024

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John Wilson

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OIA 29777

Tēnā koe John Wilson

Thank you for your email of 25 October 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- "1. Any documents, records, or briefings by MFAT that consider or propose a Sanctions Act targeting Israel, similar to the Russia Sanctions Act.*
- 2. Any analyses, memos, or briefings outlining what steps, requirements, or legal provisions would be necessary for New Zealand to enact sanctions explicitly targeting Israel, independently of a UN Security Council resolution.*
- 3. Any comparative assessments or references to the Russia Sanctions Act that explore the viability of a similar framework for Israel.*
- 4. Any communications or correspondences between MFAT and other government departments or international partners discussing the feasibility or advisability of sanctions on Israel.*
- 5. Any records or minutes from meetings where the topic of targeted sanctions on Israel, or the broader legal and procedural requirements for such sanctions, was discussed."*

As you note, New Zealand can impose sanctions in two ways: through the domestic implementation of sanctions as mandated by resolution of the United Nations Security Council; or targeted sanctions under the Russia Sanctions Act in response to military actions by Russia (and by countries or persons who may be assisting Russia) in Ukraine or another country. New Zealand does not have legislation enabling the imposition of other autonomous sanctions.

New Zealand has established a travel ban regime against a number of extremist Israeli settlers who undermined stability in the West Bank through illegally settling in the area, perpetrating violence, and displacing Palestinian civilians from their homes. The imposition of further travel bans is likely. More information about the travel bans is available on the Beehive website: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/travel-bans-extremist-israeli-settlers

Further information on New Zealand's response to the Israel-Hamas conflict can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry) website:

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

Four documents are in scope of your request. One title and the content of all four documents is withheld in full under section s6(a) of the OIA; to not prejudice the security or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

Documents in scope of OIA 29777	
Date	Title
1 February 2024	Israel/occupied Palestinian territories: Travel bans in response to acts to undermine stability and security in the West Bank
12 February 2024	Israel/occupied Palestinian Territories: Travel ban extension
28 May 2024	Israel/occupied Palestinian territories: third travel ban extension
25 October 2024	[withheld under section 6(a)]

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