

18 MAY 2017

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Dear Steve

I refer to your email of 1 May 2017 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"...I understand the Moscow embassy is no longer located in the building known as Mindovsky House, a local landmark being an Art Deco design dating from before the revolution, around 1903.

- 1) Could you please advise on the date the Embassy vacated this building*
- 2) Regarding the Mindovsky House if the property was NZ owned, if it has been sold and to whom it was sold to, when and if possible the sale price.*
- 3) Has the sale been settled in full ?*
- 4) What was the time difference between moving to the current Embassy on the Moscow river and the sale agreement being signed.*
- 5) With the new location, has the building been bought or is it on a long term lease.
If it was bought, for how much and if on lease what are the terms including monthly rent (or other period in the lease?)..."*

The New Zealand Embassy leased Mindovsky House from 1974 to 2015. In May 2015, the New Zealand Embassy moved to a property at 3 Prechistenskaya Embankment, to enable the landlord to refurbish Mindovsky House. This property is leased until December 2019. The monthly rental is NZ\$33,679.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joana Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade