



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry Aotearoa

29 November 2017

Cindy Black
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Dear Cindy Black

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

"...I see in the news that the Prime Minister has announced a ban on foreign purchasers of residential housing in NZ. Can you please provide copies of any and all advice provided by MFAT related to this announcement and this proposed ban.

I envisage this advice should include what the ban actually is, what the legislative amendments would be to give effect to it, and whether it is in fact a ban, or in fact a requirement for a foreign purchaser to seek consent from the OIO. Advice on whether and how the proposal would be enforced and what implications it might have should be included as well as what resourcing impact is expected to enforce it, and what level of compliance is expected. Advice on what affect legislation changes would actually have, and what impact any proposed legislative change would have on existing and proposed international agreements that NZ is or is intending to be a party to would also be appreciated."

I refer to your same OIA request of 1 November 2017 to The Treasury and 13 November 2017 to the Office of the Prime Minister. Your requests were partially transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 20 November 2017 and 27 November respectively.

This letter advises that due to the necessity for further consultation, we will need to extend the time limit for responding to all of your requests by 45 working days, to 23 February 2018. It is possible however, that even with this extension, we may be unable to release material relevant to your requests.

Please note, this extension takes into account the upcoming statutory holidays and the period of 25 December to 15 January which are not considered working days as set out in section 2(1) of the Official Information Act.

In the interest of being open and transparent, I also write to advise you that the officials best placed to respond to your request will be travelling on work related business over the coming month. While we will of course make best efforts to respond promptly, we bring this to your attention as a matter of courtesy.

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 'J Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade