



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministère des Affaires
Étrangères

4 April 2019

Katjoesja Buissink
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Dear Katjoesja Buissink

I refer to your email of 21 February 2019 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"...request any documents relating to:

- 1) Venezuela;*
- 2) any other documents which refer to Juan Guaido;*
- 3) Haiti;*
- 4) Communist Party of China;*

written or distributed from January 15 2019 until February 21 2019 inclusive..."

On 6 March 2019, I wrote to you to clarify parts 1 and 2 of your request and we have received no response to this letter. The Ministry has carefully considered your request. However, in the absence of further correspondence from you in terms of refining the scope of your request, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Also, on 21 March 2019, I wrote to you to advise that the timeframe for our response would be extended to 4 April 2019. This was because consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that we could not make a proper response within the original timeframe (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers). I also advised that for part 4, there were no documents *'written or distributed from January 15 2019 until February 21 2019 inclusive'* regarding the Communist Party of China. Therefore under section 18(e) of the OIA, I refused your request as this information does not exist.

We have made a decision on your request. Some portions of the documents will be withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;

- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(ba): to protect the supply of confidential information by a third party; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

We will endeavour to provide you with the documents at issue as soon as possible.

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 black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade