

22 March 2024

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OIA 29187

Tēnā koe KW53

I refer to your email of 2 March 2024 in which you request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*'details on any approvals given to provide any NZ weapons, weapon accessories, or aid to the Israeli government or any Israeli companies in the past 5 years'*

In the last five years (2 March 2019 to 2 March 2024) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) has not issued any weapons permits to the Government of Israel or any Israeli companies. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

In the last five years the Ministry has issued two permits for weapon accessories to Israeli companies as outlined below:

- In 2020, an export permit was issued to export a small number of firearm suppressors (ML1) for evaluation purposes by an Israeli company;
- In 2021, an export permit was issued to export pistol, rifle, and shotgun parts (excluding barrels or frames) (ML901) for sporting equipment to an Israeli company.

Further details of the goods are withheld under section 9(2)(ba) of the OIA, to protect the supply of confidential information by another party.

The Ministry has not provided aid (encompassing humanitarian or development funding) to the Government of Israel or Israeli companies in the past five years. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

New Zealand has provided a total of NZ\$15 million in financial support to the humanitarian response concerning the Israel-Hamas conflict. This includes NZ\$7.5 million in support for the World Food Programme (WFP) and NZ\$2.5 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) appeals to support their responses in Gaza and the West Bank.

New Zealand has also contributed NZ\$5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appeal to support their humanitarian operations in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel. This includes humanitarian support for Israelis affected by the conflict. As you would expect, needs are much greater in the occupied Palestinian territories and, as a result, the ICRC's response in Gaza and the West Bank is of a much greater scale.

You can read more about the ICRC's response for affected Israelis – including engaging with families of Israeli citizens taken hostage and facilitating the release and return of Israeli hostages – on the ICRC website: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/middle-east/israel-and-occupied-territories>.

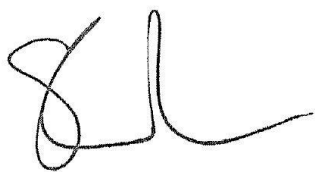
New Zealand funds humanitarian organisations that act with full neutrality, impartiality and independence. Programming is needs-based, which means assistance is provided to those who need it most, regardless of social, political, religious or economic considerations. These principles are fundamental.

For more information please refer to the Ministry's website information on the Israel-Hamas Conflict accessible via the following link: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/middle-east/israel-hamas-conflict/>

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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade