

s9(2)(g)(ii) )

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**From:** ESD  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 January 2024 10:20 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia s9(2)(g)(ii)

OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell  
<http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/OIA2324/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FFunctions%2FGovernance%2FMinisterialServicesandReporting%2FOIA2324%2FOIA%2029002%20Andrew%20Riddell&FolderCTID=0x012000BCCC2BF1B99A724D9C8B2681A7E282B5004DD79D10E04EAE47A09FEC1C864AB1D5&View=%7BF8E4C549%2D89B0%2D479F%2D9534%2D7C9FCF6B5317%7D>

Thanks,  
s9(2)(g)(ii)

Original Message-----

**From:** ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 January 2024 9:45 am  
**To:** ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 January 2024 9:15 am  
**To:** ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s9(2)(g)(ii)

Another one s9(2)(g)(ii) please.

s9(2)(g)(ii) - please give me a call when you have a moment - I need to get a sense of where your workload is sitting.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Senior Adviser  
Whatupūaho | Executive Services Division New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(g)(ii)

-----Original Message-----

From: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 5 January 2024 8:04 am

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

OIA request.

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Riddell <fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 4 January 2024 9:38 pm

To: ENQUIRIES <enquiries@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

I request copies of all advice, briefings, reports and other communication since 1 October 2023 to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Leaders of Opposition Parties, and/or to cabinet on the following matters (including where the matters are included as part of communications on several topics)

- the events in Gaza and its surrounds on 7 October,
- international conventions and law on genocide, rights of people within occupied territories to resist that occupation, duties and responsibilities of occupying forces, and war crimes,
- a ceasefire in Gaza
- potential war crimes by Israel and/or Hamas
- the South African action to the International Court of Justice on the subject of genocide by Israel

I confirm I am a New Zealand citizen living in this country.

Ngā mihi

Andrew Riddell

-----  
This is an Official Information request made via the FYI website.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz

Is enquiries@mfat.govt.nz the wrong address for Official Information requests to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:

[https://fyi.org.nz/change\\_request/new?body=mfat](https://fyi.org.nz/change_request/new?body=mfat)

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

<https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers>

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 January 2024 4:18 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii) ; ESD  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii) Israel.Gaza.tf  
**Subject:** Task Force OIAs 28992; 28994; 29002

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Thanks for your message on new OIAs relating to the ISR/GZA conflict.

Can the following please be allocated as Task Force POCs for these requests.

- OIA 28992: s9(2)(a) : TF Contact: s9(2)(g)(ii)
- OIA 28994: s9(2)(a) : TF Contact: s9(2)(g)(ii)
- OIA 29002: Andrew Riddell: TF Contact: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Once ESD has re-scoped these OIAs requests, grateful if you could please liaise directly with the team members (copying in the TF mailbox).

With thanks  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

s9(2)(g)(ii)  
Response Manager, Israel and Gaza Task Force  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Manatū Aorere  
s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 2:56 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii) ; Israel.Gaza.tf; s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - briefings on Israel and Gaza

Hi <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

I like the idea of providing Andrew a list of documents a la <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup>, plus a narrative of what the advice listed contains (you could include a line about how the list and the narrative are being provided in line with section 16(1)(e) and section 16(2)(a)).

For <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> though a narrative won't be needed as they have just asked for the list.

Thanks,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 2:35 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

I am picking up this request OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell.

Even with the refined scope this is a very large request . "all communications/briefings/reports/etc TO the Prime Minister or TO the Minister of Foreign Affairs" will include briefs, submissions, talking points, sitreps, weekly reports etc.

I therefore propose provide Andrew Riddell with the same response as s9(2)(a) once finalised.

The <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> response will include a list of key advice between 8 October 2023 – 9 Feb 2024. It will also contain a narrative response outlining the nature of our advice to date, including sitreps/weekly reports. This would be in line with section 16(1)(e) and section 16(2)(a) of the OIA.

How does this sound?

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Policy Officer**  
Ūropi | Europe Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 February 2024 4:21 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Might you be able to take on this refined OIA too... it is due 14 March. Here is the response letter doc: <http://o-wln-gdm/Functions/Governance/MinisterialServicesandReporting/layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=GOVE-52934090-4185>

Let me know if you're too busy.

Thanks,

<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ESD <[DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 January 2024 8:34 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Andrew Riddell <[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 January 2024 8:22 pm  
**To:** ESD <[DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

Dear Executive Services Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

I am somewhat bemused by the reasons for your request for me to limit the scope of my request.

In making the request I deliberately limited it to communications with specific people and to cabinet. I further limited the request to communications from 1 October on, and to a limited range of subject matters.

I am puzzled about why that requires reviewing hundreds of emails, messages, and documents.

Are you reviewing communications TO the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Leaders of Opposition Parties and TO Cabinet as per my request, or including all documents and discussion and advice leading to the drafting and submission of documents to the persons identified or to Cabinet?

Is your record keeping system capable of searching out communications to specific people? or not?

However, I am prepared for now to limit the request to all communications/briefings/reports/etc TO the Prime Minister or TO the Minister of Foreign Affairs. But keep the same time period and subject matters as in my original request.

Cheers  
Andrew Riddell

-----Original Message-----

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Tēnā koe Andrew,

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request below.

The information in scope of your request is substantial, with hundreds of emails, messages, and documents, which would require the attention of our teams already under pressure monitoring the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and providing assistance to New Zealanders. Therefore, your request as it currently stands is likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested would require substantial collation and research to provide.

In order to avoid a refusal, we would like to ask if you would consider narrowing the scope of your request? For example, are you interested in a summary of advice MFAT has provided to Ministers, information on the Ministry's approach to the Israel-Gaza conflict, information generated at a specific point in time, etc? A refinement would help us to provide you with relevant information on the issue without impairing efficient administration here at the Ministry or negatively impacting our ongoing operations.

It would be appreciated if you could respond to this email by midday on Monday 22 January 2024.

Any clarification or amendment of a request is considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response (section 15(1AA) of the OIA refers).

Many thanks,

Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

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Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)

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<https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers>

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Riddell <[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)>

Sent: Thursday, 4 January 2024 9:38 pm

To: ENQUIRIES <[enquiries@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@mfat.govt.nz)>

Subject: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

Dear Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

I request copies of all advice, briefings, reports and other communication since 1 October 2023 to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Leaders of Opposition Parties, and/or to cabinet on the following matters (including where the matters are included as part of communications on several topics)

- the events in Gaza and its surrounds on 7 October,
- international conventions and law on genocide, rights of people within occupied territories to resist that occupation, duties and responsibilities of occupying forces, and war crimes,
- a ceasefire in Gaza
- potential war crimes by Israel and/or Hamas
- the South African action to the International Court of Justice on the subject of genocide by Israel

I confirm I am a New Zealand citizen living in this country.

Ngā mihi

Andrew Riddell

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza  
**Date:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 1:41:57 pm

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Further to our conversation 20 WD may not be enough given the volume of OIAs MFA has on the go.

Agree that 25 to 30 WD is likely to be a safer option.

30 WD takes you to after Easter, Tues 2 April 2024.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Senior Adviser  
Whatupūaho | Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(g)(ii)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 1:17 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Can I get a sense check from you on this extension.

5wd - TF drafting response + TF IC approval 5wd - ESD+LST sign-out 5wd - MFA and DPMC consultation  
5wd - wriggle room.

Tēnā koe Andrew,

I am writing concerning your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request below.

This email is to advise that we will need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 20 working days, to 15 March 2024. This is because consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time frame (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers)

However, if this process is completed before 14 March 2024, the response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, 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.



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**From:** [ESD](#)  
**To:** ["fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz"](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza  
**Date:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 1:48:00 pm

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Tēnā koe <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

I am writing concerning your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request below.

This email is to advise that we will need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 30 working days, to 28 March 2024. This is because consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time frame (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers)

However, if this process is completed before 28 March 2024, the response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, 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.

Ngāa mihi,

Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Riddell <[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)>  
Sent: Wednesday, 17 January 2024 8:22 pm  
To: ESD <[DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

Dear Executive Services Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

I am somewhat bemused by the reasons for your request for me to limit the scope of my request.

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Is your record keeping system capable of searching out communications to specific people? or not?

However, I am prepared for now to limit the request to all communications/briefings/reports/etc TO the Prime Minister or TO the Minister of Foreign Affairs. But keep the same time period and subject matters as in my original request.

Cheers  
Andrew Riddell

-----Original Message-----

s9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 18 February 2024 4:47 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Someone else in the team is doing the response to this.

BTW in future please send OIAs directly to <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> and the taskforce inbox so that <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> can maintain oversight and allocate OIAs as appropriate.

Thanks heaps!

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Senior Policy Officer  
Israel-Gaza Taskforce

s9(2)(a)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 January 2024 11:13 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Israel.Gaza.tf <Israel.Gaza.tf@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

We have received the below refinement from Andrew Riddell regarding his OIA request. Are you comfortable preparing a response along those lines?

Noting that the due date for this OIA is now 15 February 2024.

Many thanks,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 January 2024 8:34 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

[UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Riddell <fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz>  
Sent: Wednesday, 17 January 2024 8:22 pm  
To: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>  
Subject: Re: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

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Andrew Riddell

-----Original Message-----

[UNCLASSIFIED]

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It would be appreciated if you could respond to this email by midday on Monday 22 January 2024.

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Many thanks,

Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

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Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz

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-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Riddell <[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)>  
Sent: Thursday, 4 January 2024 9:38 pm  
To: ENQUIRIES <[enquiries@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@mfat.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

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- international conventions and law on genocide, rights of people within occupied territories to resist that occupation, duties and responsibilities of occupying forces, and war crimes,
- a ceasefire in Gaza
- potential war crimes by Israel and/or Hamas
- the South African action to the International Court of Justice on the subject of genocide by Israel

I confirm I am a New Zealand citizen living in this country.

Ngā mihi

Andrew Riddell

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: s9(2)(g)(ii) OIA handover  
**Date:** Monday, 19 February 2024 2:57:49 pm

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[RESTRICTED]

Thanks <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

s9(2)(g)(ii) has kindly offered to pick up the below OIAs from <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> now that she has left the Task Force. Please direct any queries on the OIAs to <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> in the first instance.

With thanks, <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 February 2024 4:08 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

Israel.Gaza.tf <[Israel.Gaza.tf@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Israel.Gaza.tf@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> OIA handover

[RESTRICTED]

Hi <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Below is where I'm up to on OIAs. The latest correspondence for each is in the Israel.tf inbox as a starting point.

Out of scope

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Out of scope

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Out of scope

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Out of scope

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

[OIA 29046](#) <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> due 26 Feb

- I have circulated this [List of titles](#) for comment by 22 Feb. Awaiting response from ISED/LGL/MoD/NZDF
- I have also drafted an accompanying narrative response.

[OIA 29002 Riddell](#) due 14 March

- Given the size of the request we will provide a summary response. Carry over the OIA <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> response once finalised.

## Out of scope

- 

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(g)(ii) ([she/her](#))

### **Policy Officer**

Ūropi | Europe Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Stock check; Israel / Palestine OIAs  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 March 2024 9:18:11 am

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[IN CONFIDENCE]

Thanks for the below <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> very useful! Glad to know we are not missing anything.

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 March 2024 11:08 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Stock check; Israel / Palestine OIAs

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Apologies for the delay in getting back you.

**Out of scope** are for a list of advice (or interpreted as such) and myself/ESD will be in touch asap to <sup>Out of scope</sup> gress.

**Out of scope** are with the Unit and are under action.

The remainder of the OIAs you've identified require no action from your Unit.

Many thanks,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

1. Out of scope
2. Out of scope
3. Out of scope
4. Out of scope
5. Out of scope
6. Out of scope
7. Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

8. Out of scope  
9. Out of scope  
10. Out of scope  
11. Out of scope  
12. Out of scope  
13. Out of scope

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 February 2024 11:33 pm

**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Stock check; Israel / Palestine OIAs

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi s9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks to you both for sending through the OIA tracker last Friday. Its been really handy as we have undertaken a stock take of the OIAs given all the various staff changes we have had with the TF/ Unit in recent weeks. I have checked in with PHM, LGL and UNHC to see what they have under action / have completed on ISR/ PAL issues too (*thanks s9(2)(g)(ii) !*).

I have reproduced all the OIAs below from your tracker. To note:

- there are several, in yellow and grey, that we do not seem to have an active record of.
- A couple, in red, which we have been allocated by you, but are not recorded on your tracker.
- And green ones which we understand are either completed with ESD for Dep Sec sign out, or being rescoped by ESD.
- The purple highlighted ones are being worked on by PHM.

The red text below has been provided from PHM (as commentary to an enquiry from us this morning).

Can you please let us know about the yellow and grey highlights and if they need to be actioned?

With thanks, s9(2)(g)(ii)



14. Out of scope
15. Out of scope
16. Out of scope
17. Out of scope
18. Out of scope

19. Out of scope

20. Out of scope

21. Out of scope

22. Out of scope

23. Out of scope

24. Out of scope

25. Out of scope

9)(ii)

26. Out of scope

27. Out of scope

28. Out of scope

29. OIA29046 - <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> - Completed with ESD for sign out by DepSec

30. Out of scope

31. Out of scope

32. Out of scope

33. Out of scope

34. Out of scope

35. Out of scope

36. Out of scope

37. Out of scope

38. Out of scope

39. OIA 29002 – Andrew Riddell (<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>) With Unit under action

40. Out of scope

41. Out of scope

42. Out of scope

43. Out of scope

*We are working on the following OIAs which are not on your tracker:*

44. Out of scope

45. Out of scope

46. Out of scope

47. Out of scope

There are also the following OIAs which the Unit and supporting divisions have no visibility on.

We are keen to check with you please if we should be actioning these:

- 48. Out of scope
- 49. Out of scope
- 50. Out of scope
- 51. Out of scope
- 52. Out of scope
- 53. Out of scope
- 54. Out of scope

- 55. Out of scope
- 56. Out of scope
- 57. Out of scope
- 58. Out of scope
- 59. Out of scope
- 60. Out of scope

|

|

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 March 2024 2:01 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

OIA 29002 Riddell is good to go from MEA.

Response: [OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell Response.docx](#)  
Cover sheet: [OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell Cover Sheet.docx](#)

Ngā mihi nui  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 March 2024 3:21 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Nope, if we are releasing the same information then we won't need to bother other Divisions/agencies again. The only caveat would be if we are going into detail in the narrative on information that would otherwise need to be signed off by those groups, then we should seek their feedback.

Hopefully that makes sense!

Cheers,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 March 2024 3:15 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Now that OIA 29046 <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> is done and dusted, I've turned attention to completing OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell.

I suggest that we provide the list of advice that was provided to <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup>, as well as the narrative response outlining other forms of advice. Do we need to seek MoD/NZDF/ISED/LGL/UNHC approval, given that this response and list of titles have previously been vetted by colleagues? The deadline is **14 March**, so making sure to account for timing of referrals if required.

Ngā mihi  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Policy Officer – Israel and Palestine Unit**

Rāwhiti-pū me Te Onetupu | Middle East and Africa Division

Manatū Aorere | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

FOIA(b)(7)(D)

---

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FOIA(b)(7)(D)



# Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request Risk and Quality Assurance Sheet

## OIA request details

<b>OIA number:</b>	29002	<b>Request to:</b>	MFAT		
<b>Requester name:</b>	Andrew Riddell	<b>Type:</b>	Individual		
<b>Subject:</b>	Ministerial briefings on Israel/Gaza				
<b>Date request received:</b>	17 January 2024	<b>Extension:</b>	YES	<b>If YES</b>	30 <b>WD</b>
<b>OIA due date:</b>	28 March 2024				

<b>Executive Services Division lead:</b>	s9(2)(g)(ii) - mobile s9(2)(a)				
<b>Division:</b>	MEA	<b>Lead:</b>	s9(2)(g)(ii)	<b>Mobile:</b>	s9(2)(a)

## Review questions

Have you considered <b>all sources of information</b> (incl. electronic messages)?			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Division Lead	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	
			Click or tap to enter a date.	

Do you <b>need to de/reclassify documents</b> ?			YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Document author, Dep. Sec. or the CSO may declassify	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	
			Click or tap to enter a date.	

Should we <b>publish this response on the Ministry website</b> ?			YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please note only MFAT OIAs are eligible for publication.				

## Sign-out

Review required by	Y/N	Name	Approved	Date
<b>1. Divisional Manager</b> <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>	Y	s9(2)(g)(ii)		8 March 2024
<b>2. Media</b>	Choose an item.			Click or tap to enter a date.
<b>3. Legal</b> Choose an item.				Click or tap to enter a date.
<b>4. Chief Executive Office</b>				Click or tap to enter a date.
<b>5. Divisional Manager</b> <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>	Y	s9(2)(g)(ii)		13 March 2024
<b>6. SLT member</b> <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>	Y	s9(2)(g)(ii)	Approved	21 March 2024
<b>7. Minister's Office</b>	FYI	<b>MFA</b>		Click or tap to enter a date.

## Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request Risk and Quality Assurance Sheet

### OIA request details

<b>OIA number:</b>	29002	<b>Request to:</b>	MFAT
<b>Requester name:</b>	Andrew Riddell	<b>Type:</b>	Individual

<b>Request:</b>	<p><i>'copies of all advice, briefings, reports and other communication since 1 October 2023 to the Prime Minister, and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (excluding their offices) on the following matters (including where the matters are included as part of communications on several topics)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the events in Gaza and its surrounds on 7 October,</li> <li>- international conventions and law on genocide, rights of people within occupied territories to resist that occupation, duties and responsibilities of occupying forces, and war crimes,</li> <li>- a ceasefire in Gaza</li> <li>- potential war crimes by Israel and/or Hamas</li> <li>- the South African action to the International Court of Justice on the subject of genocide by Israel'</li> </ul>
<b>Background and context:</b>	Requester has submitted a number of OIAs to the Ministry.

### Risk assessment

Has the <b>information been released before?</b> If Yes, to whom and when?	Yes, this information was released under OIA 29046 <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> .
<b>Outline of the types of information to be released</b>	List of titles of advice submitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs between 1 October 2023 and 9 February 2024, including submissions, informal notes and briefing.
<b>Proactive Publication of document.</b>  Note why, or why not this OIA response is not suitable for proactive release on the MFAT website.	This OIA response does not need to be proactively released on the website, as this information has been made publicly available already.
Set out <b>the types of information being withheld</b> and why.  Note consideration of the public interest in decisions to withhold under section 9. Section 9 codes are subject to a public interest test. <a href="#">More information here:</a>	s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)



# Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request Risk and Quality Assurance Sheet

Is there <b>risk of harm</b> to the Minister/ Ministry/ other relationships of releasing this material?	
How are we <b>mitigating</b> it?	

## Consultation

<b>Agencies/partners informed/consulted:</b>	N/A – s6(a) consulted on original response (OIA 29046 <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> )
<b>Posts/divisions informed/consulted:</b>	N/A – ISED/UNHC/LGL consulted on original response (oia 29046 <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> )







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Choose an item.

File Note

<b>OIA number:</b>	29002	<b>Request to:</b>	MFAT			
<b>Requester name:</b>	Andrew Riddell	<b>Type:</b>	Individual			
<b>Subject:</b>	Ministerial briefings on Israel/Gaza					
<b>Date request received:</b>	<b>17 January 2024</b>	<b>Extension:</b>	YES	<b>If YES</b>	20	<b>WD</b>
<b>OIA due date:</b>	<b>26 March 2024</b>					

<b>Executive Services Division lead:</b>	s9(2)(g)(ii) - s9(2)(a)				
<b>Division:</b>	MEA	<b>Lead:</b>	s9(2)(g)(ii)	<b>Mobile:</b>	s9(2)(a)

<b>5 January 2024</b>	 RE_ Official Information request -
<b>23 January 2024</b>	 FW_ Official Information request -  Refinement of request received.
<b>14 February 2024</b>	 RE_ FW_ Official Information request -  Heads up to Division re extension.
<b>15 February 2024</b>	 OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - briefings on  New approach proposed.
<b>8 March 2024</b>	 RE_ OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell.msg  DM MEA approval
<b>13 March 2024</b>	 RE_ OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - ES  ESD review
Click or tap to enter a date.	
Click or tap to enter a date.	
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Click or tap to enter a date.	
Click or tap to enter a date.	



Choose an item.

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Click or tap to enter a date.	
Click or tap to enter a date.	

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 12:46 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - ESD Review

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>, approved noting some track changes in the letter. In particular, when we rescope, we need to make it clear what steps were taken (that is, we contacted them and they agreed).

Ngā mihi,  
s9(2)  
(g)(ii)  
s9(2)(a)

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 12:43 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - ESD Review

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> Have updated to say "released"

Thanks,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

---

**From:** CORBETT, Sarah (ESD) <[Sarah-Jane.Corbett@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Sarah-Jane.Corbett@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 12:40 pm  
**To:** TURNBULL, Tom (ESD) <[Tom.Turnbull@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Tom.Turnbull@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** THORNBUR, Owen (ESD) <[Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Owen.Thornber@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - ESD Review

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

The watermark on the release document says "withheld under the Official Information Act"?

Ngā mihi,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

s9(2)(a)

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 12:27 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - ESD Review

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

OIA for your review and approval please:  
[OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - All Documents](#)

Many thanks,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 March 2024 11:07 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - ESD Review

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Approved

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Unit Manager**  
Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a)      s9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 March 2024 10:49 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell - ESD Review

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Please can you review the following OIA response:

- [Response](#)
- [Information for release](#)
- [Coversheet](#)
- [Filenote](#)

Appreciated if you could have a look by COP today.

Thanks,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

s9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 March 2024 6:11 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR DS EMA APPROVAL - due 20 March - OIA response regarding Israel-Gaza conflict and Houthi attacks.

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Further to my email below, both MEA and LGL have had a look at this response with your changes (MEA has suggested some minor changes as well).

- [OIA response](#)

Please can you let me know if you are happy to approve?

Many thanks,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 March 2024 5:46 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> APPROVAL - due 20 March - OIA response regarding Israel-Gaza conflict and Houthi attacks.

Thanks <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

I've got s9(2)(g)(ii) from the Israel-Gaza Unit having a look. Do you mind if he reviews this response or would you prefer this be run by DM MEA or UM MEA?

Regards,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

---

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 March 2024 5:15 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> APPROVAL - due 20 March - OIA response regarding Israel-Gaza conflict and Houthi attacks.

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

I have had a look at the draft narrative response, and have just suggested (track-changed) a couple of small amendments/suggestions, reflective of recent developments.

Can I please ask that these be run quickly past MEA and LGL. I apologise sincerely, as I recognise that this may delay dispatch of the response but I hope that it will not take long for them to review.

Many thanks,

Europe, Middle East and Africa, and Australia Group  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(g)(ii)

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand  
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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 March 2024 3:54 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: FOR <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> APPROVAL - due 20 March - OIA response regarding Israel-Gaza conflict and Houthi attacks.

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Just checking to see if you've had a chance to have a look at the below OIA?

Noting MFAT's response is due to the requestor today.

Please let me know if there are any issues.

Ngā mihi,  
<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 March 2024 5:24 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FOR <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> APPROVAL - due 20 March - OIA response regarding Israel-Gaza conflict and Houthi attacks.

Kia ora <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

The following OIA requires your review and approval prior to being sent to the requestor:

- [OIA response](#)

The coversheet/risk assessment is available [here](#).

This response is a narrative, similar to one's MFAT has released in the past on Israel-Gaza. We are also providing links to information on the MFAT website.

Please can you let me know if you approve this response by 3pm Wednesday (20 March). Apologies for the tight turnaround.

Ngā mihi,

59(2)(g)(ii)

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s9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** ESD  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 March 2024 10:36 am  
**To:** 'fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz'  
**Subject:** Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza  
**Attachments:** OIA 29002 Andrew Riddell Response.pdf; List of titles for release - 7 Oct - 9 Feb.pdf

Tēnā koe Andrew,

**Executive Services Division**

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

On behalf of the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, please see attached the response to you OIA request.

Ngā mihi,

-----Original Message-----

From: ESD  
Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2024 1:48 pm  
To: fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Subject: FW: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

Tēnā koe Andrew,

I am writing concerning your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request below.

This email is to advise that we will need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 30 working days, to 28 March 2024. This is because consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time frame (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers)

However, if this process is completed before 28 March 2024, the response will be sent to you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,

Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Riddell <[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)>  
Sent: Wednesday, 17 January 2024 8:22 pm  
To: ESD <[DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz)>  
Subject: Re: FW: Official Information request - briefings on Israel and Gaza

Dear Executive Services Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

I am somewhat bemused by the reasons for your request for me to limit the scope of my request.

In making the request I deliberately limited it to communications with specific people and to cabinet. I further limited the request to communications from 1 October on, and to a limited range of subject matters.

I am puzzled about why that requires reviewing hundreds of emails, messages, and documents.

Are you reviewing communications TO the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Leaders of Opposition Parties and TO Cabinet as per my request, or including all documents and discussion and advice leading to the drafting and submission of documents to the persons identified or to Cabinet?

Is your record keeping system capable of searching out communications to specific people? or not?

However, I am prepared for now to limit the request to all communications/briefings/reports/etc TO the Prime Minister or TO the Minister of Foreign Affairs. But keep the same time period and subject matters as in my original request.

Cheers  
Andrew Riddell

-----Original Message-----

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Tēnā koe Andrew,

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request below.

The information in scope of your request is substantial, with hundreds of emails, messages, and documents, which would require the attention of our teams already under pressure monitoring the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and providing assistance to New Zealanders. Therefore, your request as it currently stands is likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested would require substantial collation and research to provide.

In order to avoid a refusal, we would like to ask if you would consider narrowing the scope of your request? For example, are you interested in a summary of advice MFAT has provided to Ministers, information on the Ministry's approach to the Israel-Gaza conflict, information generated at a specific point in time, etc? A refinement would help us to provide you with relevant information on the issue without impairing efficient administration here at the Ministry or negatively impacting our ongoing operations.

It would be appreciated if you could respond to this email by midday on Monday 22 January 2024.

Any clarification or amendment of a request is considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response (section 15(1AA) of the OIA refers).

Many thanks,

Executive Services Division  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

-----  
Please use this email address for all replies to this request:



[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)

---

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<https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers>

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

26 March 2024

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

Andrew Riddell  
[fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25331-2c301219@requests.fyi.org.nz)

+64 4 439 8000  
+64 4 472 9596

OIA 29002

Tēnā koe Andrew Riddell

I refer to your email of 4 January 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*'I request copies of all advice, briefings, reports and other communication since 1 October 2023 to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Leaders of Opposition Parties, and/or to cabinet on the following matters (including where the matters are included as part of communications on several topics)*

- *the events in Gaza and its surrounds on 7 October,*
- *international conventions and law on genocide, rights of people within occupied territories to resist that occupation, duties and responsibilities of occupying forces, and war crimes,*
- *a ceasefire in Gaza*
- *potential war crimes by Israel and/or Hamas*
- *the South African action to the International Court of Justice on the subject of genocide by Israel'*

On 17 January 2024, we contacted you regarding the scope of your request. On the same day, you agreed to refine the scope of your request to be for:

*'copies of all advice, briefings, reports and other communication since 1 October 2023 to the Prime Minister, and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (excluding their offices) on the following matters (including where the matters are included as part of communications on several topics)*

- *the events in Gaza and its surrounds on 7 October,*
- *international conventions and law on genocide, rights of people within occupied territories to resist that occupation, duties and responsibilities of occupying forces, and war crimes,*
- *a ceasefire in Gaza*
- *potential war crimes by Israel and/or Hamas*
- *the South African action to the International Court of Justice on the subject of genocide by Israel'*

On 15 February 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 30 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request. (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

In line with section 16(1)(e) and section 16(2)(a) of the OIA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) is providing you with a list of formal advice provided to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry), from 8 October 2023 to 9 February 2024. Please find attached.

We have withheld some information from this list under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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

Between 1 October 2023 and 9 February 2024, the Ministry produced 23 submissions, nine informal notes, one meeting brief, 69 regular Situation Reports on the conflict, and items for 11 Ministerial Weekly Reports, which also include updates on other key global issues.

Information and advice provided to Ministers on the Israel-Hamas conflict covered topics such as:

- Latest **developments in the conflict**, in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel, and in the region
- The **humanitarian situation** in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel, and New Zealand contributions to the humanitarian response;
- New Zealand's **consular response**;
- **Engagements with international partners**, e.g. bilateral ministerial calls;
- **International and multilateral** reactions to the conflict, e.g. public statements by other countries, and United Nations resolutions;
- New Zealand's statements and voting positions in the **United Nations (UN)**.
- New Zealand's **public statements on the conflict**, e.g. through press releases, statements in multilateral fora and social media.

The Ministry's advice has been consistently grounded in international law and revolves around four pillars, as follows:

- The upholding of international law and international humanitarian law;
- Opposition to the use of terror as a political tool and illegal act;
- Recognition of the right of a state to defend itself; and
- The importance of political, not military, solutions.

The Ministry's advice has also drawn from New Zealand's longstanding approach to the Middle East Peace Process, including:

- Support for a comprehensive and sustainable two-state solution, with secure and recognised borders for both Israel and Palestine (based on 1967 lines);
- Support for Israel's right to exist in peace and security;
- Support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; and
- Recognition that direct negotiations between the parties are the only way to achieve a sustainable agreement, and a call for a return to such negotiations.

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



Owen Thornber  
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

List of titles: Formal advice provided to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by MFAT, relating to the Israel-Hamas conflict, 8 October 2023 – 9 February 2024.

Date sent	Category	Subject
10/10/2023	Informal note	Options for humanitarian and other response
10/10/2023	Submission	United Nations Human Rights Council: Joint Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Israel
11/10/2023	Submission	Conflict in Israel and Gaza: Humanitarian Support
12/10/2023	Informal Note	Advice on assisted departure options for New Zealanders in Israel
13/10/2023	Submission – Joint	New Zealand Defence Force Deployment to Support the Assisted Departure of New Zealanders from Israel and Middle East
13/10/2023	Submission	Fiscally Neutral Adjustment
15/10/2023	Submission	Israel and Gaza conflict: Humanitarian support
16/10/2023	Informal note	MFA Oral item to Cabinet 16 October
18/10/2023	Submission	UPDATE: NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE DEPLOYMENT TO SUPPORT THE ASSISTED DEPARTURE OF NEW ZEALANDERS FROM ISRAEL AND MIDDLE EAST
20/10/2023	Submission	Israel-Gaza conflict: New Zealand statements at the United Nations
21/10/2023	Submission – joint	Withheld under section 6(a)
24/10/2023	Informal Note	Israel/Gaza conflict: Update for PM
24/10/2023	Submission	Israel-Gaza conflict: New Zealand statements at the United Nations
27/10/2023	Submission	UNGA Emergency Special Session voting position advice
30/10/2023	Informal Note	Israel-Gaza conflict: Further Humanitarian Support
01/11/2023	Submission	UNGA78 Palestine resolutions suite

2/11/2023	Submission	Israel and Gaza Conflict: Further Humanitarian Support
3/11/2023	Informal Note	Consular support for New Zealanders in Gaza
8/11/2023	Informal Note	Informal Note - Israel and Gaza Conflict - Humanitarian Assistance Tranche Two, Further Advice
17/11/2023	Submission – Joint	Withheld under section 6(a)
18/11/2023	Submission	Israel-Gaza Conflict: NZ position on calling for a ceasefire
29/11/2023	Submission	Israel-Gaza Conflict: Immediate Steps for the Incoming Government
1/12/2023	Informal Note	Background Note - Support for New Zealanders during the Israel Gaza conflict
7/12/2023	Brief for Call	Meeting brief: call with Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eli Cohen
8/12/2023	Submission	Israel-Hamas conflict - Support for family members of New Zealand citizens and permanent residents
12/12/2023	Submission	Israel-Hamas Conflict - NZ statement and voting position at United Nations
14/12/2023	Informal Note	Informal Note - United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
25/01/2024	Submission	New Zealand's approach to South Africa v Israel – International Court of Justice (ICJ) Genocide Convention case
30/01/2024	Submission	Israel/occupied Palestinian territories: [withheld under section 6(a)]
1/02/2024	Submission	Israel-Hamas Conflict: Humanitarian Support - Tranche Three
9/02/2024	Submission	Withheld under section 6(a)
9/02/2024	Submission	Israel/occupied Palestinian Territories: [withheld under section 6(a)]