

18 July 2022

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OIA 28081

Tēnā koe Harold

I refer to your email of 19 May 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Regarding the New Zealand Head of Embassy Fund administered by the New Zealand Embassy to Beijing, I would like to request copies of the completed application forms submitted by all applicants that were successful in receiving funding, for these six funding rounds:

- 2017/2018
- 2018/2019
- 2019/2020
- 2020/2021
- 2021/2022
- 2022/2023

On 16 June 2022, the deadline to respond to your request was extended to 18 July 2022.

I am refusing your request for the copies of the completed application forms for successful applicants under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA as it would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. However, in order to assist your request I am able to provide a breakdown of the number of successful applicants per year; these are outlined in the table below:

| Year | Successful applicants |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 2017/2018 | 16* |
| 2018/2019 | 19 |
| 2019/2020 | 10* |
| 2020/2021 | 11* |
| 2021/2022 | 11** |
| 2022/2023 | TBC |

*data incomplete due to availability of records

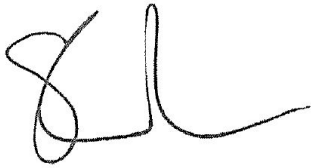
**data only available for first round of applications

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.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal line and a short vertical stroke.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade