

## Annex One: Advice provided to Wellington City Council by MFAT officials

Dear Mayor. Regarding the Palestinian flag question. The Divisional Manager of MFAT's Middle East and Africa Division has provided the following response:

This is for the Nakba (catastrophe) anniversary, which marks the end of the British mandate in Palestine, and for Palestinians the displacement of their people and s6(a) – and the creation of the state of Israel, which was declared in 14 May 1948. Our consistent message to councils who have been lobbied to fly the Palestinian flag on 15 May is that such an act could be construed as an act of state recognition s6(a) Lighting up the Michael Fowler Centre is not flying a national flag but given that it is council property it is likely to evoke s9(2)(g)(i) criticism from the Israeli Embassy, s9(2) s9(2)(g)(i) and a fairly diverse group of supporters of the state of Israel. It's the Council's decision but we would recommend against s6(a)

My MEA colleagues have provided similar guidance to AKL and CHC City Councils

Best regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

MFAT