

28 August 2023

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OIA 28712

Tēnā koe Liam Hehir

I refer to your email of 1 July 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

'any communications, instructions, or guidelines issued by or received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade that pertain to dietary preferences or specific food items, notably sausage rolls or other savoury foods, to be made available during Prime Minister Chris Hipkins' official meetings with foreign leaders.'

On 28 July 2023, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 20 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Parts of the attached email correspondence between the New Zealand High Commission in London and the United Kingdom Prime Minister's Office is in scope of your request. Some information has been withheld 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;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officials and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

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.

In addition, we have identified some email correspondence which includes reference to food preferences for the Prime Minister during his June 2023 visit to China. These communications can be summarised (in line with section 16(e) of the OIA) as a preference for water, Coke Zero, and tea, with chocolate, fruit, corn chips and muffins as snacks.

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 of Foreign Affairs and Trades' website: 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. 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, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade