



2 February 2024

T Murray

fyi-request-25188-e4c9b9e4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T Murray

Thank you for your email of 14 December 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *The dates of your initial meeting with your portfolio departments;*
2. *A list of attendees at this meeting*
3. *Any documentation provided at the meeting*
4. *All notes (including handwritten notes) taken by you or your office staff at the meeting.*

The date of my initial meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) officials was Monday 27 November 2023 at 2.00pm. The following people from my office and from MFAT attended:

- Darroch Ball (Chief of Staff)
- Jon Johansson (Adviser)
- Chris Seed (Chief Executive and Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, MFAT)
- Ben King (Deputy Chief Executive – Policy, MFAT)
- Raylene Liufalani (Chief of Staff, MFAT)

There were three documents supplied by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for this meeting:

1. The Briefing to Incoming Minister of Foreign Affairs
2. A submission relating to New Zealand's Foreign Policy
3. A submission relating to 2023 Head of Mission/Head of Post Nominations

I am refusing your request for the first two documents listed above under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is soon to be publicly available:

- The first document will be published in the Briefings to Incoming Ministers section of the MFAT website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/briefings-to-incoming-ministers/>
- The second document will be published in the Official Information Act responses section of the MFAT website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/>

The third document listed above, relating to 2023 Head of Mission/Head of Post Nominations, is refused in full 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)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

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

No notes were taken by myself or my office staff at this meeting therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

A meeting with officials regarding Racing portfolio did not take place, therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister for Racing