

6 August 2024

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OIA 29481

Tēnā koe John Smith

We refer to your email of 24 June 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I would like to know which United Nations member states do not maintain diplomatic relations with New Zealand.

On 23 July 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 10 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

The establishment of diplomatic relations is a matter of concurrence between two States. New Zealand adopts a pragmatic approach to defining diplomatic relations. Contacts over time with another state at ministerial, diplomatic, or senior officials' level are considered to constitute the conduct of diplomatic relations. These may occur in the context of bilateral meetings, or through multilateral diplomacy, for example at the United Nations. Diplomatic relations may be taken a step further with a decision by each State formally to accredit a diplomatic representative to the other.

Information in scope of your question is the list of foreign diplomatic representatives accredited to New Zealand, which is publicly available and can be found at:

<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies>.

Otherwise, to review Ministry records to determine which United Nations members do not have contact with New Zealand of the type described above, would be refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, in that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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/

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