

**From:** [Foreign Affairs Portfolio](#)  
**To:** [ESD](#)  
**Subject:** OIA from Andrew Riddell - WPOIA-089, due 17 May 2024  
**Date:** Friday, 19 April 2024 10:05:23 am

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Kia ora s9(2)(g)(ii)

OIA below from Andrew Riddell requesting information on the Minister's speech to UNGA and press release about Iranian strikes, refers for action please.

I understand MFAT provided input into the Minister's speech.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(g)(ii)

| Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) |  
Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters |

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)  
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:35 AM  
To: s9(2)(g)(ii)  
Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)  
Subject: WPOIA-089, due 17 May 2024

Good morning s9(2)(g)(ii)

This request has been logged as WPOIA-089, due 17 May 2024.

Cheers,  
s9(2)(g)(ii)

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Riddell <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xxx.xx>  
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 8:37 PM  
To: Winston Peters (MIN) <x.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
Subject: Official Information request - Statements of Minister of Foreign Affairs on Gaza and Iran

Dear Winston Peters,

I note your speech to the United Nations on 9 April and a press release about Iranian strikes on 15 April.

It is good to see your support for an immediate ceasefire at Gaza and that Israel has legal obligations to follow the provisional measures stipulated by the International Court of Justice.

However there are statements made in your speech and in the press release on which I am interested in understanding what is meant and what briefings or other communications you have received that lead you to making those statements.

I therefore request copies of all briefings, emails, records of meetings and all other communications since you became the current Minister of Foreign Affairs on the following matters:

(a) The statement "barbaric violations of women and children" used when referring to the 7 October attack and since - given the number of 'barbaric violations' reported on October 7 which have since been shown to be false, what is the nature of these barbaric allegations you speak of, according to the briefings, advice and other communications you have received.

(b) The investigations into serious allegations against certain UNRWA staff - what are the specific investigations you are looking forward to the outcome of? What briefings or reports have you received about the Israel's evidence supporting these serious allegations against certain UNRWA staff.

(c) Given you say that building and expanding illegal settlements in the occupied territories and the forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza imperil the two-state solution, what advice or assessments have you received on the continued viability of a 2 state solution?

(d) You say all must demand that Hamas release all remaining hostages immediately. What advice have you received about the legal status of Israeli military personnel held by Hamas - are these people hostages or prisoners of war?

What advice and information have you received about the thousands of Palestinians held without charge by Israel, and their status under international law?

(e) The press release of 14 April asserts that Iran conducted illegal strikes against Israel. Iran is citing its right to self-defence for these strikes, following the attack by Israel on its consulate at Damascus. What advice have you received on this 'self-defence' justification, and the legality of it.

(f) Your speech to the United Nations acknowledges that Palestinian civilians bear the brunt of Israel's military action. Have you asked for or received any advice or briefings on the impacts of Israeli military action on Palestinian civilians in Gaza, and its legality in terms of international humanitarian law? I note that the government has imposed sanctions on some Israeli illegal settlers on the West Bank. Have you asked for and/or received any advice on imposing sanctions against members of the Israeli cabinet and military for their actions in Gaza?

Finally, just to confirm that where you have received advice and/or briefings and such like on any of the matters asked about above I am requesting copies of those communications..

Ngā mihi  
Andrew Riddell

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This is an Official Information request made via the FYI website.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
xx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Is x.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xx the wrong address for Official Information requests to Winston Peters? If so, please contact us using this form:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://fyi.org.nz/change\\_request/new?body=winston\\_peters\\_!!Asq5-8xVch3Regltqzo5scvkM78JpZBQnOBhmdSz1HJ8hJB8akGtxY-eBVKnQMP2Xo5FHaz\\_Dai\\_zjmP3eGFr0taOPQA3vKYe4cddHx6CNnffGwAloRpFI4FYOf\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://fyi.org.nz/change_request/new?body=winston_peters_!!Asq5-8xVch3Regltqzo5scvkM78JpZBQnOBhmdSz1HJ8hJB8akGtxY-eBVKnQMP2Xo5FHaz_Dai_zjmP3eGFr0taOPQA3vKYe4cddHx6CNnffGwAloRpFI4FYOf$)

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[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers\\_!!Asq5-8xVch3Regltqzo5scvkM78JpZBQnOBhmdSz1HJ8hJB8akGtxY-eBVKnQMP2Xo5FHaz\\_Dai\\_zjmP3eGFr0taOPQA3vKYe4cddHx6CNnffGwAloRpNOXLn4E\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers_!!Asq5-8xVch3Regltqzo5scvkM78JpZBQnOBhmdSz1HJ8hJB8akGtxY-eBVKnQMP2Xo5FHaz_Dai_zjmP3eGFr0taOPQA3vKYe4cddHx6CNnffGwAloRpNOXLn4E$)

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: OIAs due 17/5  
**Date:** Tuesday, 14 May 2024 3:30:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [MOIA 29321 - Extension notification.dotx](#)  
[MOIA 29322 - Extension notification.dotx](#)

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Hi s9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks, please see attached.

Cheers,

s9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 1:26:33 PM  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIAs due 17/5

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia roa s9(2)(g)(ii),

It was good thanks. Appreciated if we could have approval for extensions for both of these.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Cheers,

s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 May 2024 10:11 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** OIAs due 17/5

Morning s9(2)(g)(ii)

I hope you had a good weekend.

Grateful your please advising whether we will be seeking extensions (or not) on the following OIAs due this Friday 17/5?

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Out of scope |                |
| 29322        | Andrew Riddell |

Please advise and/or provide me with relevant letters by tomorrow as we will have key staff away from 16/5 and need to get requests approved/signed off asap.

Thanks

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**From:** [Winston Peters \(MIN\)](#)  
**To:** [@xxx](#)  
**Subject:** OIA request to Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
**Date:** Friday, 17 May 2024 9:23:58 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)  
[OIA Letter - Andrew Riddell WPOIA-089 17.05.pdf](#)

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Dear Andrew Riddell

Please find attached letter regarding your OIA request to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Kind regards

Foreign Affairs Private Secretary



**Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters**

Deputy Prime Minister |

Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister for Racing |

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** [ESD; Foreign Affairs Portfolio](#); s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: OIA request to Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
**Date:** Monday, 20 May 2024 12:38:25 pm

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hey <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> is manging this OIA at our end, but he is working in the ECC today.

I would suggest responding with the below unless you want to wait for further detail from <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> tomorrow:

*Dear Mr Riddell,*

*Your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 18 April 2024 was received at 8:37pm and work began on a response to you the following morning as it was reviewed by the Office.*

*Your request covers a six-month period since 7 October 2023 and the Office did note at the outset that a significant amount of information would need to be reviewed in order to identify the information in scope of your request. However, at this early stage it is extremely challenging to know how long an extension may be required and a Minister can only extend the deadline to respond to an OIA request once. Accordingly, the Office progressed your request and sent you an extension within the statutory deadline, when the amount of time needed to make a decision on your request could be more accurately assessed.*

*Notwithstanding the extended deadline, you will receive a decision on your request as soon as possible.*

*Kind regards*

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Unit Manager**

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup>

<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

-----Original Message-----

From: ESD <xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Sent: Monday, 20 May 2024 12:03 pm

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: OIA request to Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs

[UNCLASSIFIED]

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 20 May 2024 11:55 am

To: ESD <xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: OIA request to Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dear ESD,

As you'll see below, the office is in a bit of a back and forth with someone who has made a request under the OIA, that we've subsequently had extended.

In s9(2)(g)(ii) absence, is ESD able to lead on a short response to the requestor, basically explaining that the nature of his request requires the extension?

Best wishes,

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(a)

[restricted]

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 11:52 AM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: OIA request to Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hi s9(2)(g)(ii),

Flicking through as discussed - this request (WPOIA-089) was extended last week due to substantial collation. It is now due on 24 June 2024 (25 working days).

I have also attached the extension letter for awareness. Not sure if this necessitates a further response or not.

Cheers,

s9(2)(g)(ii)

-----Original Message-----





Kind regards

Foreign Affairs Private Secretary

Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister |

Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister for Racing |

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

[XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX.XXX.XX](mailto:XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX.XXX.XX)

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[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers\\_!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!s\\_DC8K00yFKQov4RndWak4VjDGfKQEEc-B0e-dAM6nbrtw9n2hMurREisqLdlg4rRxsraW6tXl-gskoEltfjUsKjPTnAYeFKmdno9rjVh6Bd\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://fyi.org.nz/help/officers_!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!s_DC8K00yFKQov4RndWak4VjDGfKQEEc-B0e-dAM6nbrtw9n2hMurREisqLdlg4rRxsraW6tXl-gskoEltfjUsKjPTnAYeFKmdno9rjVh6Bd$)

If you find this service useful as an Official Information officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's OIA or LGOIMA page.

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# Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request Risk and Quality Assurance Sheet

## OIA request details

|                               |                |                    |         |               |              |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>OIA number:</b>            | MOIA29322      | <b>Request to:</b> | MFA     |               |              |
| <b>Requester name:</b>        | Andrew Riddell | <b>Type:</b>       | FYI.org |               |              |
| <b>Subject:</b>               | various        |                    |         |               |              |
| <b>Date request received:</b> | 18 April 2024  | <b>Extension:</b>  | YES     | <b>If YES</b> | 25 <b>WD</b> |
| <b>OIA due date:</b>          | 24 June 2024   |                    |         |               |              |

|  |                        |              |              |                |          |
|--|------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| <b>Executive Services Division lead:</b> | s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(ii) |              |              |                |          |
| <b>Division:</b>                         | MEA                    | <b>Lead:</b> | s9(2)(g)(ii) | <b>Mobile:</b> | s9(2)(a) |
| <b>Division:</b>                         | Choose an item.        | <b>Lead:</b> |              | <b>Mobile:</b> | 021      |

## Review questions

|  |              |                  |   |                             |
|--|--------------|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Have you considered <b>all sources of information</b> (incl. electronic messages)? |              |                  | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Division Lead  | <b>Name</b>  | <b>Signature</b> | <b>Date</b>                             |                             |
|  | s9(2)(g)(ii) |                  | Click or tap to enter a date.           |                             |

|  |             |                  |                               |  |
|--|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Do you <b>need to de/reclassify documents</b> ?      |             |                  | YES <input type="checkbox"/>  | NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Document author, Dep. Sec. or the CSO may declassify | <b>Name</b> | <b>Signature</b> | <b>Date</b>                   |  |
|  |             |                  | Click or tap to enter a date. |  |

|  |  |  |   |                             |
|--|--|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Should we <b>publish this response on the Ministry website</b> ?<br>Please note only MFAT OIAs are eligible for publication. |  |  | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--|--|---|-----------------------------|

## Sign-out

| Review required by                              | Y/N    | Name         | Approved | Date                          |
|---|--------|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| <b>1. Divisional Manager</b><br>Choose an item. | Y      | s9(2)(g)(ii) | Yes      | 22 May 2024                   |
| <b>2. Media</b>                                 | FYI    |              |          | Click or tap to enter a date. |
| <b>3. Legal</b> Choose an item.                 |        |              |          | Click or tap to enter a date. |
| <b>4. Chief Executive Office</b>                |        |              |          | Click or tap to enter a date. |
| <b>5. Divisional Manager ESD</b>                | Y      | s9(2)(g)(ii) |          | 24 May 2024                   |
| <b>6. SLT member DS EMA</b>                     | Y      | s9(2)(g)(ii) |          | 5 June 2024                   |
| <b>7. Minister's Office</b>                     | Review | <b>MFA</b>   |          | Click or tap to enter a date. |

# Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request Risk and Quality Assurance Sheet

## OIA request details

|                        |                |                    |         |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| <b>OIA number:</b>     | MOIA29322      | <b>Request to:</b> | MFA     |
| <b>Requester name:</b> | Andrew Riddell | <b>Type:</b>       | FYI.org |

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Request:</b>                | <p><i>I therefore request copies of all briefings, emails, records of meetings and all other communications since you became the current Minister of Foreign Affairs on the following matters:</i></p> <p><i>(a) The statement "barbaric violations of women and children" used when referring to the 7 October attack and since - given the number of 'barbaric violations' reported on October 7 which have since been shown to be false, what is the nature of these barbaric allegations you speak of, according to the briefings, advice and other communications you have received.</i></p> <p><i>(b) The investigations into serious allegations against certain UNRWA staff - what are the specific investigations you are looking forward to the outcome of? What briefings or reports have you received about the Israel's evidence supporting these serious allegations against certain UNRWA staff.</i></p> <p><i>(c) Given you say that building and expanding illegal settlements in the occupied territories and the forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza imperil the two-state solution, what advice or assessments have you received on the continued viability of a state solution?</i></p> <p><i>(d) You say all must demand that Hamas release all remaining hostages immediately. What advice have you received about the legal status of Israeli military personnel held by Hamas - are these people hostages or prisoners of war?</i></p> <p><i>What advice and information have you received about the thousands of Palestinians held without charge by Israel, and their status under international law?</i></p> <p><i>(e) The press release of 14 April asserts that Iran conducted illegal strikes against Israel. Iran is citing its right to self-defence for these strikes, following the attack by Israel on its consulate at Damascus. What advice have you received on this 'self-defence' justification, and the legality of it.</i></p> <p><i>(f) Your speech to the United Nations acknowledges that Palestinian civilians bear the brunt of Israel's military action. Have you asked for or received any advice or briefings the impacts of Israeli military action on Palestinian civilians in Gaza, and its legality in terms of international humanitarian law? I note that the government has imposed sanctions on some Israeli illegal settlers on the West Bank. Have you asked for and/or received any advice on imposing sanctions against members of the Israeli cabinet and military for their actions in Gaza?</i></p> <p><i>Finally, just to confirm that where you have received advice and/or briefings and such like on any of the matters asked about above I am requesting copies of those communications.</i></p> |
| <b>Background and context:</b> | <p>Andrew Riddell has made several requests to MFAT and OMFA regarding New Zealand's response to the Israel-Gaza conflict, and has been critical of the responses he has received so far.</p>   |

# Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request Risk and Quality Assurance Sheet

## Risk assessment

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Has the <b>information been released before</b>?<br/>If Yes, to whom and when?</p>  | <p>The response is primarily a narrative due to the significant amount of information in scope of the request. However, much of the information has already been released in several OIA responses on the Israel-Hamas conflict since 7 October 2023. The narrative response also draws on previously released content in the Ministry's ministerial responses and directs the requestor to several website links with publicly available relevant information.</p> |
| <p><b>Outline of the types of information to be released</b></p>   | <p>The narrative response covers the Ministry's general approach to the Israel-Hamas conflict, the types of information/advice provided to the Minister in that regard, the humanitarian situation including UNRWA investigation, and the Minister's speeches at the UN.</p>  |
| <p><b>Proactive Publication of document.</b></p> <p>Note why, or why not this OIA response is not suitable for proactive release on the MFAT website.</p>  | <p>N/A – MFA OIA (although this response will be made publicly available on fyi.org.nz).</p>  |
| <p><b>Set out the types of information being withheld</b> and why.</p> <p>Note consideration of the public interest in decisions to withhold under section 9. Section 9 codes are subject to a public interest test. <a href="#">More information here:</a></p> <p>Is there <b>risk of harm</b> to the Minister/ Ministry/ other relationships of releasing this material?</p> <p>How are we <b>mitigating</b> it?</p> | <p>The response directs the requestor to an existing publicly available OIA response, which includes documents with redactions withholding information about the Israel-Hamas conflict on s 6(a) (prejudice to international relations and national security) grounds.</p> <p>The names of any staff involved in advice relating to the Israel-Hamas conflict are also withheld on grounds protecting officials from improper pressure or harassment.</p>           |

## Consultation

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <p><b>Agencies/partners informed/consulted:</b></p> | <p>N/A</p>                 |
| <p><b>Posts/divisions informed/consulted:</b></p>   | <p>LGL, PHM, UNHC, MEA</p> |

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Andrew Riddell - MOIA 29322 - DUE 24/6  
**Date:** Friday, 21 June 2024 10:37:41 am

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Fantastic! Many thanks<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> – apologies for the oversight!

s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2024 10:24 AM  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Andrew Riddell - MOIA 29322 - DUE 24/6

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

No worries, sent this to the foreign affairs inbox a few weeks ago.

Thanks,  
s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 June 2024 10:19 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Andrew Riddell - MOIA 29322 - DUE 24/6

Hi<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Just chasing up above OIA response for Andrew Riddell due with requester on Monday please?

Thanks

s9(2)(g)(ii)

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Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**From:** [Winston Peters \(MIN\)](#)  
**To:** [@xxx](#)  
**Subject:** OIA response from Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
**Date:** Monday, 24 June 2024 12:24:41 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)  
[MFA to Andrew Riddell - WPOIA-089 - 24 June 2024.pdf](#)  
[20240304-Israel-oWB-CRSV-report.pdf](#)

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Dear Andrew Riddell

Please find attached a response from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to your email of 18 April 2024.

Kind regards

Foreign Affairs Private Secretary



**Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters**

Deputy Prime Minister |

Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister for Racing |

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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