



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

30 August 2024

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New Zealand

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OIA 29598

Tēnā koe David Cumin

Thank you for your email of 6 August 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

We request all documents you hold that discuss:

- (a) the employment of terrorists,*
- (b) employment of terror supporters, or*
- (c) promotion of terror by any other organisation that New Zealand financially supports.*

We have interpreted your request to be for all documents held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) discussing the employment of terrorists, the employment of terror supporters, or the promotion of terror by any organisation that the New Zealand government financially supports through the Ministry.

As per our previous responses to you on related topics, the government does not fund organisations that incite violence or hatred, or promote or support terror [OIAs 28970, 29028, 28947, 28533, 28970 refer].

Substantial research would be required to assess what might fall within the scope of your request. Consequently, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

With regards to UNRWA, New Zealand takes the January 2024 allegations that certain UNRWA employees participated in the 7 October 2023 Hamas terror attacks on Israel very seriously. In response to the allegations New Zealand did not pause funding. However, a decision to disburse our funding in June 2024 followed careful consideration of the UN's response, including external and internal investigations. It also reflected assurances received from the UN Secretary-General about remedial work underway to enhance UNRWA's neutrality.

The Ministry is aware that the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services investigation into the allegations has concluded. The United Nations has stated in response that "appropriate measures will be taken in due course, in conformity with UNRWA Regulations and Rules" and that the employment of relevant "individuals will be terminated in the interests of the Agency."

As referred to in our previous responses to you (OIAs 29417 and 29418 refer), the Ministry will in due course be releasing official information related to UNRWA and the disbursement of New Zealand's 2023/24 annual core funding.

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 over a faint circular watermark.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade