

7 November 2024

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000  
F +64 4 472 9596

Cooper O'Neil

OIA 29753

fyi-request-28669-0d8c13ad@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Cooper O'Neil

Thank you for your email of 6 October 2024, transferred from the Department of the Prime Minister on 14 October 2024, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request all messages of support from former US President Barack Obama to former Prime Minister John Key concerning the Pike River Mine accident."*

We have interpreted your request to be for formal messages of support from the former President of the United States of America (US) Barack Obama to the former New Zealand Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Key concerning the Pike River Mine accident.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) is not aware of receiving any formal messages of support from former United States President Barack Obama. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

We have located a related statement from the former US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, which is publicly available via for the below link:

[web.archive.org/web/20111015041232/https://newzealand.usembassy.gov/mine\\_explosion.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20111015041232/https://newzealand.usembassy.gov/mine_explosion.html)

We note that reporting at the time indicates that former US President Obama gave former Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully a similar message at the NATO summit in Lisbon, Portugal which they were both attending.

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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://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