



Office of Hon Steven Joyce

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Regulatory Reform
Minister of Science and Innovation
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment

Minister Responsible for Novopay
Associate Minister of Finance

25 AUG 2015

Mr. Berger
fyi-request-3063-53c1d7e1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Berger

On behalf of the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment, Hon Steven Joyce, thank you for your email of 19 August 2015, received on 19 August 2015, requesting, under the Official Information Act:

I'd like to request the new Education Cooperation Agreement between Vietnam and New Zealand that was signed on the 5th of August 2015 in Hanoi, as detailed in this article: <http://www.nzembassy.com/viet-nam/news/new-zealand-minister-of-tertiary-education-and-minister-of-economic-development-hon-st>.

I would also like to request any contextual documents relating to the negotiation, signing or eventual implementation of the agreement.

We wish to clarify the scope of your request in accordance with section 15(1)(1AA) of the Official Information Act (the Act). As it stands, your request is very broad. Education Cooperation Agreements (ECAs) are part of the New Zealand government's wider framework of engagement and agreements with our international trading partners. Because of that wider context, we have interpreted your request as: that information related solely to the Viet Nam-New Zealand ECA that was signed in Viet Nam in August 2015.

Further, given your request for 'contextual' information, we do not consider logistical documents or correspondence not directly connected to the ECA, for example a list of attendees at a promotional event, as falling within the scope of your request.

In addition, we wish to notify you that due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request – including consultation with the Vietnamese Government – a proper response to your request cannot be reasonably made within the original time limit. We are therefore advising you of an extension of time for responding to your request, in accordance with section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

As a result of clarifying your request in accordance with section 15(1)(1AA) of the Act, the due date for responding to your request will be 30 working days from when we receive a response from you. If we do not receive a response from you by Wednesday 2 September 2015, we will assume that this interpretation is acceptable to you and will respond within 30 working days.

Under section 28(2) of the Act, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Falloon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Falloon
Senior Ministerial Advisor