

13 April 2026

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OIA 30798

John Luke

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Tēnā koe John Luke

Thank you for your email of 12 March 2026 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Communications released under the Official Information Act (OIA) revealed the gift – a framed photo of US Marines working with New Zealand soldiers at the Army School of Bush and Mountain Warfare in the Tararua Range during World War II – was presented via protocol channels, meaning diplomat-to-diplomat."
Can I also get a copy of the same OIA documents you provided to Newstalk ZB."*

Response to your request

Please find attached the information in scope of your request. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

In addition to the information attached, there was a further WhatsApp conversation which is no longer available due to a device upgrade. The device that contained this conversation was being used by a senior policy officer in the Ministry's APEC Policy Division. In accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, a summary of the content of that conversation is provided below.

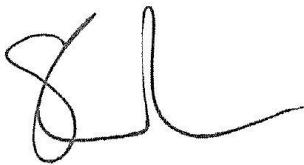
The WhatsApp conversation was limited to logistical and protocol arrangements for the meeting between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. This included discussion of the timing of arrivals, the names and positions of attendees, and protocol considerations relating to how the two leaders would enter the Korea-hosted dinner in the neighbouring room immediately following the bilateral meeting.

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, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small loop.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade