



8 June 2026

Ref: OIA 26-374

Ms Ainslie Smith

By email: fyi-request-34660-7984f621@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Ms Smith

Request for information under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) received on 7 May 2026, in which you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Under the Official Information Act, please provide the number of overseas-based staff you have in each location (e.g. x staff in London), as well as their role (e.g. Customs Officer).”

In response to your request, I refer you to the table below, which provides a breakdown of Customs’ 12 overseas-based positions by location and role as at 8 June 2026.

Customs Overseas-Based Staff by Position and Location	
Position title	Location
Counsellor (Customs)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Counsellor (Customs)	Beijing, China
Counsellor (Customs)	Brussels, Belgium
Counsellor (Customs)	Tokyo, Japan
Counsellor (Customs)	Bangkok, Thailand
Liaison Officer International Targeting Centre	Washington DC, United States of America
Counsellor (Customs)	Washington DC, United States of America
Consul (Customs)	Los Angeles, United States of America
Counsellor (Customs)	London, England
Counsellor (Customs)	Canberra, Australia
New Zealand Liaison Officer	Canberra, Australia
First Secretary (Customs)	Jakarta, Indonesia

Customs’ offshore-based positions extend New Zealand’s border internationally by deploying liaison officers in key locations to work with overseas customs and law enforcement agencies, targeting transnational crime and its supply chains before they reach New Zealand. They strengthen intelligence-sharing and global partnerships, enabling early risk identification and coordinated enforcement action to protect the border. At the same time, they support trade and economic

interests by facilitating legitimate trade, contributing to trade agreements, and ensuring New Zealand has a strong, well-connected presence in international forums.

In addition to the above listed roles, Customs also employs 2.5 FTE locally employed support staff to assist with administrative, advisor and interpreter functions (in Bangkok, Beijing and Brussels). Furthermore, the partner of one of our offshore-based positions is also a Customs officer. That officer is able to perform their duties remotely and so falls within the scope of this request even though their position is not considered an offshore role.

If you have any queries in relation to this response, please contact the Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Servicing team by email at: OIA@customs.govt.nz.

Please note that Customs proactively releases responses to Official Information Act requests on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after we have sent it to you. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', enclosed within a simple oval outline.

Michael Blades
Director, International