



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Māori ōriaki

18 October 2016

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Kurien Thomas
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Dear Kurien Thomas

I refer to your email of 16 September 2016 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"...a list of successful and unsuccessful applicants in regards to grant applications. For the successful applicants, I would also like the amount they requested and the amount they were given."

Following on from my email to you of 21 September 2016 and our subsequent conversation on 23 September to discuss a refinement of your request, the Ministry determined that the revised request was still too broad and the information requested could not be made available without substantial collation or research. On 27 September I sent you another email, which you followed up with a call on 7 October. Following this, on 11 October, I sent you a further suggested refined request as follows:

"Please provide me with information that shows, over the last two financial years, how you made funding allocation decisions for the following funding pots:

- 1. Partnerships for International Development Fund; and*
- 2. Public Diplomacy Fund*

I am looking to understand how decisions are taken locally i.e. Wellington, so am not looking for information related to funding pots managed or allocated off shore. I would also like to know the value of the funds noted above, the number of applications received, the number approved and the number declined."

In the absence of further correspondence from you since our conversation on 7 October and our email reminders to you on 14 October and again yesterday, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) - that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Johnston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade