

12 May 2023

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

John Luke
fyi-request-22125-3181541b@requests.fyi.org.nz

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

OIA 28581

Tēnā koe John Luke

Thank you for your email of 17 March 2023, which was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) on 5 April 2023, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newshub.co.nz%2Fhome%2Fpolitics%2F2023%2F03%2Fchina-wants-to-help-new-zealand-recover-from-cyclone-gabrielle-including-financing-constructing-key-infrastructure.html&data=05%7C01%7Cinformation%40dpmc.govt.nz%7Ce7c2d2cd89ce4bbbc51d08db26133f1a%7Ceea6053309ef4b7a94060f38551cc613%7C0%7C0%7C638145636350050346%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uy%2BzUG3k3MMurq%2BJQaJNRVwMac0KOfiF%2FDLKz%2BKdvc%3D&reserved=0>

Can you please provide the full copy of the letter from Chinese Ambassador and full copy of the BRI memorandum of arrangement.

On 4 May 2023, you were advised that the deadline for responding to your request was extended by 10 working days to 18 May 2023, and provided with the BRI memorandum of arrangement.

Your request for a copy of the letter from the Chinese Ambassador is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by the department, and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

The Ministry has proactively searched across internal divisions for a copy of the letter, to no success. The Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth have confirmed that they do not hold a copy of the letter. Both the offices of the Minister for Emergency Management and the Minister for Cyclone Recovery have also confirmed that they do not hold this information.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

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, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade