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28 April 2016
Natasha Frost

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Dear Natasha Frost

I refer to your email of 15 February 2016 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I am writing to ask how much the TPPA has cost New Zealand so far, including legal advice, negotiators, hosting delegates and the signing, sending negotiators and ministers around the world, policing protests and all other associated costs.

I would be happy to have an estimate (even a rough one) if this information is not readily available. Please release whatever you can."

We have not had a response to our letter of 14 March 2016 which invited you to narrow the scope of your request, or our follow-up letter of 31 March 2016. We also have not received a response to our email of 8 April 2016 seeking your response to our letter of 31 March.

As noted in our letter of 14 March 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) does not have visibility over the entire cost of the TPPA to New Zealand. Although TPPA costs have been borne by MFAT, other Government agencies and private individuals may also have incurred costs. No single agency, or individual, holds the information you have requested. Under s18(e) of the OIA, I am refusing your request as this information does not exist. Information about MFAT's expenditure was not available at the time of your request as details are still being received and collated. We expect to be able to provide information about most of MFAT's expenditure by 30 June 2016.

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

Yours sincerely

Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

GOVE-14-8994

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