



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

29 April 2016
Dhaya Haran
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Dear Dhaya Haran

I refer to your email of 26 February 2016 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"We would like to clarify what the New Zealand Government's understanding of the Sri Lankan Government's reconciliation process is.

- 1. We request all information held by the New Zealand government about the Sri Lankan Government's "reconciliation process", which informs the opinions stated in the paragraphs above, of the existence of "the considerable efforts...the Government of Sri Lanka [is] putting into the country's reconciliation process" and of the Government of Sri Lanka's "significant programme of post-war reconciliation".*

Attached are the documents relevant to the first point of your request. Some portions of the documents are withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the new Zealand Government;
- 6(b): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments;

In addition, some material has been withheld as it is not within the scope of your request, and two documents have been withheld in full under section 6(b) of the OIA.

- 2. We request all information giving details of any support provided to the Sri Lankan government since the 2002 peace-process to present, or planned in the future by the New Zealand Government or other New Zealand bodies or persons that the New Zealand Government has authority over.*

New Zealand's development assistance in Sri Lanka from 2002 to present, including current and planned activities, totals approximately NZ\$22.7 million over 15 years.

Through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the New Zealand Aid Programme provides support to Sri Lanka through the Partnerships for International Development Fund. Current support focuses on agriculture development and includes working with:

- Massey University to strengthen veterinary education (2014-2019, MFAT funding of NZ\$2,183,815). This activity is enhancing the technical resources of the University of Peradeniya, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science to develop veterinary capability.
- ChildFund NZ on Batticaloa Livelihoods Enhancement (2013-2016, MFAT funding of NZ\$693,831), which assists 26 Sri Lankan communities to access vocational and business training, loans and develop value chains.
- TearFund NZ on the Wannai Dairy Regeneration programme (2012-2016, MFAT funding of NZ\$1,893,112) to improve self-sufficiency, food security, and incomes among smallholder farming communities in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

TearFund NZ is currently designing an expansion of the Wannai Dairy Regeneration programme to which MFAT will contribute NZ\$3,310,807. This new five-year activity aims to improve Sri Lankan dairy production and quality of life in nine districts in the Northern, Eastern and North Central provinces, targeting 7,500 of the poorest smallholder dairy farming households (over 30,000 individuals), and 10,000 rural youth.

The New Zealand Aid Programme will also support a Dairy Excellence Training Initiative over three years (2016-2019), assisting the Sri Lankan Department of Animal Production and Health and its Schools of Animal Husbandry to develop and roll-out in-service dairy advisory training for livestock development staff, to improve smallholder dairy farmer productivity. This initiative is about to begin implementation, with a budget of NZ\$2,750,000.

Sri Lanka has been a recipient of New Zealand Scholarships since 1963. Scholarships cover tuition fees, study costs, a living allowance, insurance and pastoral and academic support at institutions. Since 2002, approximately NZ\$1.1 million has been provided to support 15 Sri Lankan students to complete a range of postgraduate qualifications in disciplines including animal science, statistics and environmental planning. One PhD student was included on the Dean's List at Massey University for outstanding academic achievement in soil science. At present, five Sri Lankan students are studying agriculture, management, finance and accounting in New Zealand under our Commonwealth Scholarships Programme.

In addition, over the last two years the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has hosted officials from Sri Lanka's Department of Animal Health to observe veterinary practise in New Zealand and attend the annual New Zealand Veterinary Association conference, and sent officials to Sri Lanka to discuss capability needs. MPI is also working with FarmIQ, a New Zealand farm management software company, to provide an on-farm performance monitoring tool adapted to Sri Lanka's needs.

Other New Zealand Government support for NGOs, technical assistance services and multilateral agencies working in Sri Lanka over the past 15 years is set out below:

Agency	Activity	Funding (NZ\$)
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Improving Young Children's Nutritional Status	108,000

Agency	Activity	Funding (NZ\$)
ActionLove New Zealand	Tsunami Fishing Boat Galle	3,180
ARENA Foundation	Women's Centre	34,404
Asia Development Assistance Facility	Water supply and sanitation systems for rural districts in Sri Lanka	1,570,179
Caritas Aotearoa NZ	Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Emergency Response	120,000
	Savisthri Women for Development	57,600
ChildFund NZ	Calsimahaeliya Tea Plantation and Water Sanitation	115,000
	Community Child Protection in Eachalampattu Trincomalee	136,344
	Desford Tea Plantation and Water Sanitation	91,671
	Emergency Assistance to Children & Displaced Families in Kilinochchi	115,000
	Promoting the Recovery of Displaced Children & Families	115,738
	Rain Water Harvesting	117,246
	Rapid Emergency Response for Children & Youth Affected by Conflict in Batticoloa	124,997
	Youth Career Guidance for Post Conflict Recovery	307,940
	Strengthening the Protective Environment for Children in IDP Communities in Vavuniya District	100,000
	Assistance to People Affected by Conflict in the North & East of Sri Lanka	91,600
	Christian World Service	Devansarana Development
Movement for National Land & Agricultural Reform		193,200
Rehabilitation for Returning Refugees		200,000
Southern Peoples Forum		16,000
Women's Centre		391,796
Women's Development Foundation		62,976
Livelihood Support		134,995
Christian Blind Mission	Rural Health and Hygiene in Maddu, Mannar	40,000
New Zealand Tamil Medical Association	Sri Lanka tsunami relief and reconstruction	333,000
NZ Cricket	NGO Capacity Building for Strengthening Families & Community	129,200
Richmond Fellowship New Zealand Inc	Emergency Assistance to Children & Displaced Families in Kilinochchi	100,000
Save the Children New Zealand	Livelihood Assistance for IDPs & Host Families in Mannar District	136,000
Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation	Jaffna Food Security	70,000

Agency	Activity	Funding (NZ\$)
(New Zealand) Trust		
World Vision	Tsunami reconstruction – design options for sanitation for the settlement areas	64,230
UNICEF Sri Lanka	Emergency education	1,313,407
International Federation of the Red Cross	Health Programme	1,100,001
UNDP Mine Action	Mine Clearance	640,228
UNDP	2011 Flood: Livelihood Recovery	750,000
UNHCR	UNHCR response to basic protection, shelter materials and non-food relief items	500,000
UNFPA	Safeguarding of reproductive health of women affected by the ongoing conflict in Sri Lanka	250,000
	Reproductive health services for displaced and returning Tamils to home areas	500,000
WFP	Contribution to Sri Lanka Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP)	500,000
	Total	\$10,826,956

3. We request all documents relating to how the New Zealand Government evaluates support given to the Sri Lankan Government by the New Zealand Government or other New Zealand bodies or persons that the New Zealand Government has authority over.

All activities to which the New Zealand Aid Programme contributes NZ\$10 million or more must be evaluated during implementation and/or after completion. While activities undertaken in Sri Lanka do not meet that threshold, current activities are monitored and the results are used for learning, decision-making, accountability and communications.

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

Yours sincerely

rp Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade