

Andrew Ecclestone
fyi-request-8505-546841f1@requests.fi.org.nz

Dear Andrew Ecclestone

Official Information Act 1982 request

I refer to your request of 15 August 2018 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) seeking the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“(a) a copy of all reports (including briefings/aide memoire etc) produced for officials or Ministers on SDG 16.10.2;

(b) any reports on efforts made to assess and report on implementation of SDG 16.10.2; and

(c) any correspondence (including emails) and notes of meetings with officials in other departments (most likely, but not limited to, Treasury and Statistics NZ) on how progress on SDG 16.10.2 may be incorporated in to 'Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand' and/or 'The Living Standards Framework'.”

MFAT transferred this request to the Ministry of Justice on 29 August 2018 under section 14 of the Act, as we are the lead agency for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

New Zealand will report to the United Nations on its progress towards achieving the SDGs in its Voluntary National Review (VNR), which is currently planned for 2019. In preparation for this, the Ministry of Justice, along with other government departments, is turning its mind towards how best to measure progress on aligning with the SDGs in our national context.

Our initial thinking on how best to measure and track the SDG 16 goals is set out in two draft reports, which are attached to this letter. These drafts fall within parts (a) and (b) of your request. Material outside the scope of your request has been redacted from the draft report *Measuring SDG 16: An initial picture for Aotearoa New Zealand*. We do not hold any correspondence that falls within part (c) of your request. To date, the Ministry of Justice has not produced any reports specifically on SDG 16.10.2 'Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information'.

The documents provided to you are very early drafts. The main aim of preparing them was to work towards getting an overall summary picture ready of our progress against SDG 16. As you will see, some targets are not relevant in New Zealand and in other cases information may be incomplete or not available. We would expect to continue refining the information over time, in preparation for the VNR in 2019.

You may be interested also to know more about current work on making official information more publicly accessible. The Associate Minister of State Services (Open Government), Hon Chris Hipkins, has announced new requirements for the proactive release of all Cabinet material. More information on the policy, including the Cabinet paper *Strengthening Proactive Release Requirements*, can be found on the State Services Commission's website at <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/proactive-releases>.

Participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) is one of the ways in which New Zealand can advance its open government agenda. The draft Third OGP National Action Plan is available for public comment on the State Services Commission's website at <https://www.ogp.org.nz/new-zealands-plan/third-national-action-plan-2018-2020/>. You may wish to take the opportunity to provide your views on the draft plan.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to complain to the Ombudsman about the documents released. Contact details for the Office of the Ombudsman are:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
Wellington
Email: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely



Caroline Greaney
**General Manager, Civil and Constitutional
Policy**

Appendix 1: Table of documents

Number	Document	Title	Date	Decision on release
1	Draft report	Measuring SDG 16: An initial picture for Aotearoa New Zealand	18 December 2017	Partially released. Material outside scope of the request has not been released.
2	Draft report	SDG readiness summary: initial draft	10 August 2018	Released in full