

12 May 2020

C Watson
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Dear C Watson

I refer to your email of 24 January 2020 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Please supply the itinerary for the trip to the recently completed trip to the Philippines that the leader of the opposition (Simon Bridges) and accompanying MPs. Simon Bridges claimed that MFAT prepared most of it therefore I would like to know which parts MFAT prepared."

On 24 February 2020 we wrote to you to advise that the timeframe for our response would be extended to 23 March 2020. This was because consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that we could not make a proper response within the original timeframe (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

We also sent you an updated letter on 23 March 2020 advising that a decision had been made on your request and that we would endeavour to get you the documents to you as soon as possible. A large number of Ministry staff is currently working on issues relating to the impact of COVID-19, which is putting pressure on business as usual work, however we are doing our best to process all of our OIA requests as quickly as possible. We thank you for your patience during this busy time.

The Ministry and the New Zealand Embassy in Manila arranged and supported the delegation's programme in Manila.

The itinerary for the visit is provided. Some details are withheld in full under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(d): to endanger the safety of any person; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed document may be published on the Ministry's website.

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 black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade