

8 March 2022

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OIA 27856

Tēnā koe Scott

I refer to your email of 13 December 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1) All emails between High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands Georgina Roberts and MFAT staff in New Zealand*
- 2) All emails between Deputy High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands Hannah van Voorthuysen and MFAT staff in New Zealand*
- 3) All cables between Honiara Post and Wellington*

On 31 January 2022, due to further consultation being required before a response could be provided, the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 25 working days, to 8 March 2022. Thank you for your patience while this process was concluded.

Points 1 and 2 of your request have been refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as it would require substantial collation and research. If you would like to submit a more targeted request, you are able to do so.

In reading the subject line of your request, we interpreted point 3 of your request to be for "all cables between Honiara Post and Wellington" between 22 November 2021 and 13 December 2021.

The information relevant to your request is attached. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 6(c): to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial;
- 6(d): to avoid endangering the safety of any person;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(c): to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public;

- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

We have withheld some documents in full under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

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

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents 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



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade