

22 June 2022

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Tēnā koe Lance D. Lavery

I refer to your email of 24 May 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*What work is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade doing in regards to recognising Palestine's Statehood in order to create job opportunities for New Zealand businesses that wish to engage in commercial ventures with the Palestinians, as it must be said that they are a very creative, intelligent and entrepreneurial culture.*

*If the information is not held by the Ministry then please advise as to where the information can be obtained nationally and/or internationally.*

New Zealand has a long-standing policy of not making formal acts of recognition of states, preferring that recognition be inferred by the nature and level of New Zealand's dealings with the state in question. New Zealand has a warm and constructive relationship with the Palestinian Authority. We welcome opportunities to deepen New Zealand-Palestinian trade relations. Under New Zealand's current policy settings on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there are no impediments to engaging in commercial ventures with Palestinians or businesses based in Palestine.

While New Zealand does not recognise Palestine as a fully sovereign state, we resolutely support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which would lead to the creation of a Palestinian state. This is the best path for a durable and lasting peace in the region.

New Zealand will continue to pursue a principled and balanced approach to the Middle East Peace Process. We look forward to the day when Palestine is afforded statehood under the two-state solution.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) 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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie-Anne Lee  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade