

26 June 2023

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18–901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

Adam Irish
fyi-request-22510-f6d3da10@requests.fyi.org.nz

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 28600

Tēnā koe Adam Irish

I refer to your email of 20 April 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *' Any records, including correspondence, reports, memos, or briefings, that discuss or relate to the use of Hikvision cameras in New Zealand;*
2. *Any advice, assessments, or recommendations provided by MFAT to the New Zealand government regarding the potential cybersecurity risks and links to human rights abuses associated with Hikvision cameras;*
3. *Any communications or engagement that MFAT has had with the Chinese government or Hikvision regarding the use of Hikvision cameras in New Zealand;*
4. *Any information regarding the steps that the New Zealand government has taken or plans to take to mitigate any potential cybersecurity risks associated with the use of Hikvision cameras in New Zealand.'*

Your request has been numbered for ease of reference.

On 5 May 2023, parts 1 and 4 of your request were transferred to the Government Communications Security Bureau. Additionally, your request was partially transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to respond on information identified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) as being held by DPMC.

On 19 May 2023, the time limit for responding to your request was extended by 25 working days.

The Ministry has now made the decision to release information in scope of your request. However, it will take us a little more time to finalise administratively processing this information for release and we will provide it to you as soon as practicable.

Some information will be withheld 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;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;

- 9(2)(e): to avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments;
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(i): to enable agencies to carry out commercial activities

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.

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, mā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah Corbett', written over the text 'Nāku noa, mā'.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade