



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aotearoa

11 April 2016

A D Tait

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Dear A D Tait

I refer to your email of 3 March 2016 in which you request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"According to the MFAT TPPA website events page, a reference is made to "extensive public consultations carried out during TPP negotiations."

Please provide a list of any and all public consultations and any details associated with them (location, time, attendance etc)."

Extensive public outreach and consultation took place throughout the negotiation of TPP, using printed, emailed and website information, supported by extensive briefings, discussions and correspondence with key stakeholders on New Zealand's negotiating objectives and process.

Throughout the negotiation there were two public calls for submissions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) invited initial public submissions in October 2008 on entering into negotiations with the US to expand the P4 agreement. A second invitation for public comment was made in 2011 following the expressions of interest from other countries to join the TPP negotiations (Canada, Japan and Mexico) to better understand the views and interests of New Zealanders with regards to these three economies. Information about this process was published on the Ministry's website, sent by email to a list of stakeholders and disseminated via business groups.

The Government held regular presentations and briefing sessions on the negotiations with interested parties. These included public meetings in Auckland and Wellington in May 2015 in order to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to meet with the Chief Negotiator, to receive an update on the negotiation and to ask questions about their areas of interest. Similar public meetings were also held in Hamilton and Tauranga in October 2012 and Wellington in November 2012; Wellington and Christchurch in July 2013, Nelson in March 2014, Dunedin in April 2014 and in Christchurch in June 2014. The Ministry also organized a stakeholder programme attended by 72 New Zealand participants, as well as stakeholders from overseas, in conjunction with the two TPP negotiating rounds held in Auckland in 2010 and 2012.

In addition, throughout the negotiations process officials from Government agencies held hundreds of meetings with a variety of individuals and organisations, including with business groups, iwi, local councils, health sector representatives, unions, NGOs and Members of Parliament. For example, in November 2011 MBIE updated its TPP intellectual property stakeholders on the progress of the TPP negotiations concerning intellectual property; whilst the Ministry of Health, together with MFAT and MBIE, met with clinician groups on health policy-related issues in TPP in November 2012 and April 2015. Attached, at Annex A, is a list of individuals and organisations with whom MFAT and other Government agencies engaged during the TPP negotiations process.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Joana Johnston', is written over a faint, illegible background.

Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade