



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

13 December 2017

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Dear James Burke,

I refer to your email of 29 November 2017 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *"A list of all reports, briefings and memoranda that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade have received since being sworn in.*
2. *A list of all meetings that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade have had with officials of the Government of the Russian Federation since being sworn in, broken down by subject matter and date, and copies of any documents created from those meetings.*
3. *A list of meetings that Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials have had with officials of the Government of the Russian Federation since the current New Zealand Government was sworn in, broken down by subject matter and date, and copies of any documents created from those meetings.*
4. *A list of meetings that Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials have had had with officials of the European Union since the current New Zealand Government was sworn in, broken down by subject matter and date, and copies of any documents created from those meetings.*
5. *A list of all meetings that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade have had with officials of the European Union since the current New Zealand Government was sworn in, broken down by subject matter and date, and copies of any documents created from those meetings.*
6. *Copies of any and all correspondence (internal and external), briefings, reports and memoranda (internal or delivered to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and/or the Minister for Trade), of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding New Zealand-Russia economic and/or diplomatic relations since the current New Zealand Government was sworn in.*
7. *Copies of any and all correspondence (internal and external), briefings, reports and memoranda (delivered to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and/or the Minister for Trade) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding a potential FTA with the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union since the current New Zealand Government was sworn in.*

8. *Copies of any and all correspondence between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Trade and European Union officials regarding New Zealand-Russia economic/diplomatic relations and a potential FTA with the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union.*
9. *Copies of any and all correspondence between Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials and European Union officials regarding New Zealand-Russia economic/diplomatic relations and the potential FTA with the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union.*
10. *Copies of any and all correspondence (both internal and external), reports, memoranda and briefings (internal and those delivered to the Minister of Foreign Affairs) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding UNSC2334 since the new Government was sworn in."*

For ease of reference we have numbered each part of your request.

Question 1 – The information to which this part of your request relates is more closely connected with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Export Growth. Therefore your request has been transferred to those offices in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the OIA.

Question 2 – The information to which this part of your request relates is more closely connected with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Export Growth. Therefore your request has been transferred to those offices in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the OIA.

Questions 3 and 4 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for 57 posts in 50 countries and a wide range of issues, including regional and multilateral meetings where officials from other countries are present. Our research has shown that as currently described, the scope of this part of your request encompasses a very large body of information to search.

We are consulting with you as there is a possibility that the information you request above will require substantial collation and research to compile, which would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Ministry. Are you able to more specifically identify the information which you are seeking? For example, we could focus on meetings that took place in Wellington, New Zealand.

Question 5 - The information to which this part of your request relates is more closely connected with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Export Growth. Therefore your request has been transferred to those offices in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the OIA.

Question 6 – We have begun researching this part of your request, but would appreciate it if you could please clarify the information you are interested to obtain? We could interpret your request to be for final versions of these documents.

Question 7 – We are continuing to work on this part of your request.

Question 8 - The information to which this part of your request relates is more closely connected with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade and Export Growth. Therefore your request has been transferred to those offices in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the OIA.

Question 9 – We have interpreted this part of your request to be since the new Government was sworn in, as per the timeframe for the other parts of your request. Under section 18(e) of the OIA, I am refusing your request as this information does not exist.

Question 10 – We are continuing to work on this part of your request.

In the interest of being open and transparent, I also write to advise you that the officials best placed to respond to your request will be travelling on work related business over the coming month. It is therefore likely that even with a narrower scope/clarification for questions 3, 4, and 6 we will need to seek an extension to the statutory response period for parts 3, 4, 6, 7 and 10 of your request. While we will of course make best efforts to respond promptly, we bring this to your attention as a matter of courtesy. In the event that you are able to narrow the scope of your request and we nevertheless need to seek an extension, we will notify you of this by separate letter.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade