



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

12 March 2019

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New Zealand

Jack Webb

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Dear Jack Webb

I refer to your email of 14 February 2019 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I would like to request information about the process for granting diplomatic agrément to incoming ambassadors and high commissioners to New Zealand.

In particular,

- 1) I realise these may not exist, but I would like a copy of any official guidelines or other document of the process for responding to these requests.*
- 2) Are statistics available on the number of requests approved and denied?*
- 3) What kind of information is customarily compiled about a prospective ambassador or high commissioner before responding to a request?"*

Part 1 and Part 3

For part 1 and part 3 of your request, attached is the document relevant to your request. Some portions of the document are out of scope of the request. For the portions identified as being within scope, no information has been withheld under the OIA.

Also relevant to your request is the *Guidelines for the Diplomatic and Consular Corps* document which can be found on the Ministry's website at: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/guidelines-for-diplomatic-and-consular-corps/>. The section titled 'Staff of the Mission or Post, Chapter 2: Heads of Diplomatic Missions' contains information about seeking agrément. To the extent your request is for this information, it is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA as this information is publicly available.


Part 2

For part 2 of your request, I am advised that since January 2015, there have been 142 Foreign Head of Mission (HOM) requests for agrément. Of these requests, 140 were approved, none were denied, one was withdrawn and one is currently under action.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents may be published on the Ministry's website.

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 black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'W' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade