

16 February 2024

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

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

OIA 28855

Tēnā koe

I refer to your email of 24 October 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

'All advice, briefings, reports, memos, emails, and communications (including texts) received or sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if any, regarding the Israel/Palestine conflict, including the planning of Qatar Airways flights, between 24 September and 24 October 2023.'

On 29 October 2023, you rescoped your request to:

All advice, briefings, reports, and memos received or sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if any, regarding the Israel/Palestine conflict, including the planning of Qatar Airways flights, between 24 September and 29 October 2023.

Any communication between Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta and foreign counterparts regarding the Israel/Palestine conflict, including the planning of Qatar Airways flights, between 24 September and 29 October 2023.

On 30 October 2023, you clarified that you were after information regarding Etihad Airways and not Qatar Airways.

On 14 November 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) advised that your request was still very broad, and proposed an interpretation of your request. On 17 November 2023, you agreed to an interpretation of your request to be for the following:

All documents received or sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade relating to the planning of assisted departures from Israel, between 24 September and 24 October 2023.

On 27 November 2023, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 30 working days because responding to your request necessitated the review of a large quantity of information (section 15A(1)(a) of the OIA refers).

On 30 January 2024 we advised that a decision had been made on your OIA request and that the information relevant to your request was in the final stages of preparation. Thank you for your understanding while this process was completed.

Please find the information relevant to your request attached. We have withheld some information 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)(b)(ii): to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party;
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment; and,
- 9(2)(i): to avoid prejudice to commercial activities.

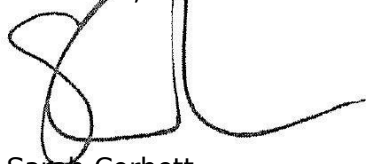
Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Additional correspondence in scope of your request has been refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as to provide this information would require substantial collation and research.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

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, nā



Sarah Corbett
For Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade