

24 July 2024

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

Personal details removed for
proactive release

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

OIA 29429

Personal details removed for proactive release

We refer to your email of 5 June 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

all written advice, briefings, reports, notes, and aides-memoire, provided for and arising from, a meeting between New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston Peters, and the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Baron Waqa, held on 5 June 2024.

On 4 July 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 14 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

The information relevant to your request is 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; and
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Call Brief: Baron Waqa [*Wong-ga*], Pacific Islands Forum Secretary-General

Time and date (NZT): Tuesday 4 June, 14:00 NZT / FJT



Baron Waqa [*Wong-ga*] became Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum yesterday, on 3 June, following his appointment in 2023. Waqa was formerly President of Nauru from 2013 – 2019 and also served as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Police and Emergency Services, Public Service and Climate Change. ^{s6(a)}

Key objectives

- Establish a relationship with Waqa as the new Secretary-General. Seek details on his priorities and aspirations for his tenure, as well as his assessment of the current state of Pacific regionalism.
- Reaffirm New Zealand's commitment to Pacific regionalism and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) as the region's pre-eminent political organisation.
- Emphasise the importance of the PIF playing a leading role in responding to the situation in New Caledonia through dialogue and talanoa.

Discussion points

- Congratulate Secretary-General Waqa on his appointment to the role. Ask Waqa about his priorities and aspirations for his tenure.
- Seek Waqa's views on the current health of Pacific regionalism and its resilience to the threats of climate change, geostrategic competition, and compounding development challenges.

New Zealand and the PIF

- Emphasise the importance New Zealand places on the PIF as our region's pre-eminent political organisation. The PIF is central to our collective efforts to secure the future of our region in a dynamic strategic environment.
- We recognise and share the concern felt by other PIF members at the recent unrest in New Caledonia. This will be an important discussion to navigate, including at upcoming PIF meetings. ^{s6(a)}

- Register our priorities for the PIF this year, including:
 - Building the concept 'PIF centrality' [borrowing from 'ASEAN centrality'], to underpin our collective efforts to shape the future of our own region, in line with the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*;
 - Strengthening and streamlining the regional architecture, including through better security architecture coherence and improving the functionality and coherence of the Pacific regional agency network;
 - Advancing discussions on regional security priorities, including our collective understanding of taking a Pacific-led approach to security, while reinforcing the long history of Pacific leadership on climate change; and
 - Supporting the PIF Secretariat and ensuring it is appropriately resourced to deliver against the priorities of Leaders.
- Note that you will attend the next Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers' meeting in Suva on 9 August. New Zealand is ready to engage in an action-oriented discussion.

[If raised: Suva Agreement]

- New Zealand is committed to the successful implementation of the Suva Agreement. Our overriding priority is Forum unity, and we welcome efforts to ensure the Forum is delivering for all Members.
- s6(a)

[If raised: Summit on Peace in Ukraine]

- New Zealand will be represented at the upcoming Summit on Peace in Ukraine by the Hon Mark Mitchell. A priority for New Zealand is to advance global support for the international rules-based system. This is consistent with PIF Leaders' commitment in the Boe Declaration to the "importance of the rules-based international order founded on the UN Charter, adherence to relevant international law and resolution of international disputes by peaceful means".
- s6(a)

30 May 2024

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
To: [MCIVOR, Tharron \(PACREG\)](#); [...BARRINGTON, Luke \(Inet\)](#)
Cc: [...BALLANTYNE, Paul \(Inet\)](#); [ANDERSON, Hollie \(PACREG\)](#); [BARRINGTON, Svar \(PACREG\)](#); [AUSTIN, Jonathan \(PACREG\)](#); [COOK, Helena \(OCE\)](#); [LU, Patricia \(DS PDG\)](#); [TAULA, Phillip \(DS PDG\)](#); [CAVANAGH, Bernadette \(DS PDG\)](#); [OCE; ESD; DARLOW, Charlotte \(SVA\)](#); [...TALBOT, Mark \(Inet\)](#); [...HICKS, Caitlin \(Inet\)](#); [...BURROWES, Rose \(Inet\)](#); [COOMBS, Jane \(PACPF\)](#); [MACPHERSON, Taha \(DS EMA\)](#); [KARRAN, Glenys \(EUR\)](#); [WALTON-FRANCE, Dom \(EUR\)](#); [WILSON, Paula \(DCE\)](#); [TAYLOR, Rob \(DCE PO\)](#); [LIUFALANI, Ravlene \(OCE\)](#); [ROXBURGH, Felicity \(NOU\)](#); [REID, Nicola \(PAR\)](#); [BILKEY, Caroline \(PAR\)](#)
Subject: Pacific: Read out of phone call between Incoming PIF Secretary General Baron Waqa & MFA
Date: Tuesday, 4 June 2024 4:56:24 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi everyone

A brief readout of this call:

MFA said he was very pleased to speak to Waqa and congratulate him on his appointment. He also thanked Waqa for having got a message of congratulation through to him via a mutual friend following the New Zealand general election late last year. New Zealand placed a great store in the PIF and wished Waqa all the best in his new role. If there was any way that New Zealand could help him in the role, it stood ready to do so.

Waqa thanked MFA, and said that New Zealand had always played a "key role in what we do at the PIF" and reflected that MFA "must be really busy - you've been all over the region". The PIF deeply appreciated New Zealand's support.

MFA said he was aiming to get to every PIF member country / territory in 2024; this and the PM's Pacific travel was a demonstration of the "sincerity of intent and seriousness of purpose" of New Zealand's new government towards the Pacific. ^{s6(a)}

Waqa said he was looking forward to seeing PM Luxon later this week in Suva to discuss cooperation between the PIF and NZ. ^{s6(a)}

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

MFA indicated that the PALM in Tokyo presented a good opportunity for the two of them to catch up in person, ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

MFA indicated this was a good opportunity for the PIF to demonstrate its value and visibility on an issue of utmost importance for global security. New Zealand was sending a senior Minister (Mark Mitchell) to the Summit ^{s6(a)}

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

MFA tweeted about the call

here: <https://x.com/newzealandmfa/status/1797822846452076599?s=46>

s6(a)

Best

s9(2)(g)
(ii)

.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser
Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs
Phone: s9(2)(a)

From: MCIVOR, Tharron (PACREG) <Tharron.McIvor@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 6:45:22 PM

To: Luke Barrington <Luke.Barrington@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Paul Ballantyne <Paul.Ballantyne@parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii)

ANDERSON, Hollie (PACREG)

<Hollie.Anderson@mfat.govt.nz>; BARRINGTON, Svar (PACREG)

<Svar.Barrington@mfat.govt.nz>; AUSTIN, Jonathan (PACREG) <Jonathan.Austin@mfat.govt.nz>;

COOK, Helena (OCE) <Helena.Cook@mfat.govt.nz>; LU, Patricia (DS PDG)

<Patricia.Lu@mfat.govt.nz>; TAULA, Phillip (DS PDG) <Phillip.Taula@mfat.govt.nz>; CAVANAGH,

Bernadette (DS PDG) <Bernadette.Cavanagh@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; ESD

<DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Brief for call: Incoming PIF Secretary General Baron Waqa

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Luke,

Please find attached our brief to support MFA's call with the incoming Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General, Baron Waqa, scheduled for next Tuesday 4 June 14:00.

Two things to note:

- We are still seeking call details from the PIF Secretariat
- s6(a)

Happy to discuss further.

Cheers,

Tharron

Tharron McIvor

Unit Manager Pacific Strategy and Regionalism
Pacific Regional Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Manatū Aorere

Ms9(2)(a) **E** tharron.mcivor@mfat.govt.nz

195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901
Wellington 5045
New Zealand

www.mfat.govt.nz | www.safetravel.govt.nz



"The information contained in this email message is intended only for the addressee and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Ministry. It may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it as this may be unlawful. If you have received this message in error, please email or telephone the sender immediately."