

8 August 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 29469

We refer to your email to the Prime Minister, partially transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) on 19 June 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

9. My intention is to obtain insights into the advice that you have received on the options available to the New Zealand Government to respond to these changes. In addition, I am interested to gain insights into what work was done recently to anticipate this shift in policy change.

We have interpreted your request to be for the topic of recent changes to Australia's 501 deportation policy.

On 18 July 2024, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 15 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

The Ministry has not provided any advice on the options available to the New Zealand Government to respond to the recent changes by the Australian Government to their 501 deportees' policy. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

The Ministry was not consulted on the shift by the Australian Government to their 501 deportees policies in advance of the publicised changes. The New Zealand Government was given notice very shortly before Prime Minister Albanese announced the change. Therefore, your request for "work...done recently to anticipate this shift in policy change" is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

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