

15 October 2024

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Thank you for your email of 27 September 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

'Please provide me with a copy of the text of the NZ-UAE CEPA'

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) intends to proactively release the text of the NZ-UAE CEPA Foreign Trade Agreement (FTA) after the agreement has been signed. We anticipate this signing will be in early 2025. Once published the text will be available on the Ministry's website via the below link:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-in-force

Until the agreement is signed this text is withheld in full under the below sections of the OIA:

- 6(e)(vi) to avoid damage to the New Zealand economy by the premature disclosure of decisions relating to entering into overseas trade agreements; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade