

23 October 2024

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OIA 29713

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 25 September 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I am writing to formally request information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to the following matters:

- 1. The decision to exclude the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC) from the webpage listing Free Trade Agreements in force, located at: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-in-force>.*
- 2. The absence of a response to my previous enquiry, sent via email to enquiries@mfat.govt.nz on 27 June 2024, with the subject line "NZ-Taiwan FTA (ANZTEC) omission from MFAT website."*

In particular, I would like to request the following:

- 3. Any documents, emails, or other communications within MFAT regarding the decision to omit ANZTEC from the list of free trade agreements in force.*
- 4. Clarification as to why no response has been provided to my email dated 27 June 2024.*
- 5. Information or explanations concerning MFAT's current stance on the ANZTEC agreement."*

Regarding your enquiry dated 27 June 2024, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) receives a significant volume of correspondence each day, and unfortunately due to an administrative error your email was not responded to. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. Please find a response to your queries below. In accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, we are providing a summary to answer your questions.

Response

I can advise that while ANZTEC is not referenced on the Free Trade Agreements in Force page of the Ministry's website, it is referenced on the website of the New Zealand Commerce and Industry Office (NZCIO) located in Taipei: <https://www.nzcio.com/>.

You will find on NZCIO's website the full text of the agreement, other relevant documents, as well as information related to the subsequent impact of ANZTEC on trade flows between New Zealand and Taiwan.

New Zealand does not maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan, but we have a strong trade, economic and cultural relationship, via the NZCIO. ANZTEC is not listed on the Ministry website as the negotiations for the agreement were between the NZCIO and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Wellington, and the agreement was signed by representatives of these two offices.

Thank you for pointing out the error on the Ministry website where it states New Zealand has "successfully completed 14 FTAs" but the subsequent page outlines 15 FTAs. We will rectify this as soon as possible.

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

Proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade