

24 October 2024

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Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 18 September 2024, transferred from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 30 September 2024, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I am requesting information regarding the recent attacks attributed to the Israeli state in Lebanon, where at least eight people, including a child, were killed and thousands were wounded due to exploding pagers.

Should a specific group or individuals be identified as responsible for these acts, will the New Zealand government impose sanctions on the perpetrators? Please provide information on the potential sanctions measures and the implementation process.

New Zealand can only impose sanctions in two ways: through the domestic implementation of sanctions as mandated by a resolution of the United Nations Security Council; or targeted sanctions under the Russia Sanctions Act in response to Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. New Zealand does not have legislation enabling the imposition of other autonomous sanctions.

The United Nations sanctions regimes are long-standing. In the current international climate, it can be challenging for existing United Nations sanctions to be amended or additional sanctions imposed in response to new developments.

However, New Zealand has established a travel ban regime against some extremist Israeli settlers who undermined stability in the West Bank through illegally settling in the area, perpetrating violence and displacing Palestinian civilians from their homes.

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