

25 October 2024

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OIA 29732

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Thank you for your email of 2 October 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*Please refer to an RNZ article 26 May 2016 for the incident which took place in South Korea in 2016. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/304865/nz-diplomat-involved-in-incident-with-seoul-police>*

*I would like to request the following information.*

- 1. Identities of those involved - 1 diplomat and 2 businessmen*
- 2. If above is not possible, just the identity of the diplomat*
- 3. Outcome of any legal actions taken by either of NZ or Korean authorities*
- 4. Any taxpayers money spent to resolve this case*

Regarding parts 1 and 2 of your request, information relating to the identities of the diplomat and the other individuals involved is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect individuals' privacy.

Part 3 of your request asks for the outcome of any legal actions taken by either New Zealand or Korean authorities. After an interview by Korean police, the diplomat was not involved in any further legal action by New Zealand or Korean authorities regarding the matter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) does not hold any information relating to direct costs associated with this incident. Staff hours were used in the process of responding to this incident. Funding for the Ministry's staff comes out of the Ministry's baseline funding and staff hours are not recorded or broken down against individual pieces of work. Accordingly, your request for *any taxpayers money spent to resolve this case* is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held.

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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop on the left and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade