

7 February 2025

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

Personal details removed for
proactive release

OIA 29859

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 9 December 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Under the OIA I request any communications you hold which involve Capital Government Relations regarding the Sri Lanka Women Parliamentarian's Caucus visit to NZ in 2023.

On 18 December 2024, we contacted you about the scope of your request. You clarified that your request was for:

"I am seeking to understand the role of Capital Government Relations (<https://capitalnz.com/>) in organising the Sri Lanka Women Parliamentarian's Caucus visit on behalf of NDI, including how they coordinated with MFAT regarding this, therefore seeking all correspondence that would enable me to do this. "

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) did not play a significant role in the organisation of this event. As you note, this event was largely organised by National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Capital Government Relations.

We have identified one document relevant to your request. Please find this attached.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect individuals' privacy.


Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop on the left and a series of connected strokes on the right, resembling the initials 'SC'.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Out of scope

From: Suzannah Jessep <sjessep@asianz.org.nz>
Date: Monday, 07 Aug 2023 at 9:19 AM
To: APPLETON, Michael (CMB) <Michael.Appleton@mfat.govt.nz>, TRAVELLER, Andrew (CMB) <Andrew.Traveller@mfat.govt.nz>, Senaka W Silva ^{s9(2)(a)}
Cc: JAYASINGHE, Sumudhu (CMB) <Sumudhu.Jayasinghe@mfat.govt.nz>, THURSTON, Mary (SEA) <Mary.Thurston@mfat.govt.nz>, Mike Jaspers ^{s9(2)(a)} MUNNEKE, Max (SEA) <Max.Munneke@mfat.govt.nz>, Simon Draper <SDraper@asianz.org.nz>,MASON, Adele (Inet) <amason@asianz.org.nz>
Subject: Visit to NZ by Sri Lankan

Dear Senaka, Michael and team

Just letting you know we had a very successful visit by the Sri Lankan MPs delegation last Thursday, coordinated by the very able Mike Jaspers.

In our roundtable, Dame Fran and Paula focused on leading law and policy reform, and how they work to socialise and generate support for their work despite opposition and sometimes threats and all the rest.

Attached are a couple of nice photos from their visit to the Foundation and dinner afterwards at T-Lounge by Dilmah, which the Foundation co-hosted. Taniya Scott, SL's new Honorary Consul here, was invited and is in the first photo. Adele spoke at the dinner about the Foundation's long-standing connections with Sri Lanka and acknowledged the passing of Mr Fernando.

The MPs offered to meet us (our delegation next week) – but I think our time is perhaps too tight given our focus on the Pathfinder dialogue. But it's nice to know this connection has been forged, and hopefully it gives you a good footing to further your work focused on democracy and policy reform.

Thanks also to Mary Thurston, who kindly joined us at dinner and helped with the mahi. And to Max, who joined the roundtable.

Cheers
Suz

Suzannah Jessep (she/her)
Director Research, Engagement, Education
Pou Whakahaere Rangahau, Honohono Tāngata

s9(2)(a)

W asianz.org.nz

Level 16, Fujitsu Tower, 141 The Terrace
PO Box 10 144, Wellington 6143, New Zealand



The information contained in this Email is confidential and intended for the addressee only. If you are not the intended recipient, you are asked to respect that confidentiality and not disclose copy or make use of its contents. If received in error you are asked to destroy this Email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated. This Email represents the views of the individual sender, which do not necessarily reflect those of the Asia New Zealand Foundation except where the sender expressly states otherwise. It is your responsibility to scan this Email and any files transmitted with it for viruses or any other defects. Asia New Zealand Foundation will not be liable for any loss, damage or consequence caused directly or indirectly by this Email.