

27 March 2019

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Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your email of 13 February 2019 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"In response to queries last December I was told that the 80 staff in Beijing was the largest embassy, staff-wise, of any of NZ's embassies.

Can you tell me how many staff the Beijing embassy had three years ago and five years ago - or where I could easily access that info?"

On 13 March 2019 we wrote to you to advise that the timeframe for our response would be extended to 27 March 2019. This was because consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that we could not make a proper response within the original timeframe (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) website states that:

"The New Zealand team in Beijing now comprises about 80 staff in ten government agencies. They are responsible for our relationship with China in diplomacy, trade and investment, primary industries, education, tourism, immigration, police, defence, customs, and science and innovation."

We do not hold a snapshot of staff numbers at exactly the same point in time for all agencies as we do for MFAT staff only. Figures that incorporate both MFAT employees and employees from other agencies are set out in the table in Appendix 1, as at December 2018, May 2016 and May 2013.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details redacted) may be published on the Ministry's website.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Appendix 1

Number of employees (all agencies) at the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing at specified dates:

	MFAT posted staff (permanent/fixed roles)	MFAT locally employed staff	Other agencies: posted staff	Other agencies: locally employed	Total staff working at Embassy
Dec 2018	15	27	10	28	80
May 2016	13	29	13	24	79
May 2013	11	27	7	18	63