

13 July 2022

Personal details removed for proactive release

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Tēnā koe <sup>Personal details removed for proactive release</sup>

I refer to your email of 30 May 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *Advice received by the High Commission in London about the New Zealand Government's plan for the demise of the Monarch (within the last six years);*
- *Any of the NZ Government's resultant plans from the UK Government's 'Operation London Bridge' plans.*

On 29 June 2022, due your request necessitating review of a large quantity of information, the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 10 working days, to 13 July 2022. Thank you for your patience while this process was concluded.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) holds documents relevant to your request. These documents and their titles, as well as advice received by our High Commission in London, are withheld in full under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

However, we have prepared a summary of these documents for your information.

The Ministry's Protocol Division has a plan outlining our role and response actions in the event of the Monarch's death. The plan notes that the New Zealand Cabinet Office has lead responsibility for coordinating the New Zealand Government's response to the death of the Monarch, and includes the following details:

- Who is responsible for providing the initial notification and to whom;
- The activation of the plan and activation of the Ministry's task force;
- The process of the Ministry's notification to the Realm countries of Niue, the Cook Islands and Tokelau;
- The tasking for the New Zealand High Commission in London;
- A draft Formal Message to New Zealand posts offshore providing initial notification followed by instructions to half-mast the New Zealand flag, open books of condolence and provide

information on the public observance of mourning and any national memorial service, and instruction to provide formal notification to the host Government; and

- The notification that will be provided to the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to New Zealand and to provide them with information on condolence books and any national memorial service.

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

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



Julie-Anne Lee  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade