

13 July 2022

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

Personal details removed for proactive
release

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

I refer to your email of 16 June 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I'm writing this to enquire about information regarding repatriation flights organised by the New Zealand Government from India to New Zealand between the 1st of April 2021 - December 2021.

Question 1: When were these repatriation flights, what were the specific dates?.

Question 2: What was the process of signing up for these flights?.

Question 3: When the government organised these flights was a Managed isolation quarantine voucher required?.

Question 4: If a managed isolation quarantine voucher was required for a government organised repatriation flight was this classed as an emergency voucher?

Question 5: If a managed isolation emergency or regular voucher was required for a government organised repatriation flight was it the New Zealand Citizen/Visa holder's responsibility to book this voucher before taking the repatriation flight or were these vouchers organised by the government.

Question 6: If it was the government's responsibility to organise these emergency vouchers for repatriation flights was it a joint endeavour between different government ministries within the government or did one government ministry take responsibility for this?

No repatriation flights were organised by the New Zealand Government from India to New Zealand between 1 April 2021 and December 2021. As such, your request for information is refused under Section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

We note that during 2020, the New Zealand Government actively assisted New Zealanders to return from India via three Air New Zealand flights chartered by the New Zealand Government; ten Air India flights organised by the Government of India to repatriate Indian nationals from New Zealand, which were also utilised by the New Zealand Government for repatriations to New Zealand; and a commercially-run private charter flight from South India. The New Zealand Government also helped get New Zealanders home from India on repatriation flights organised by other countries. These flights offered a viable route home from India for over 3,092 people at a time when commercial flight options were not available to them. The Managed Isolation Allocation System was not in operation during the period when these charter flights took place.

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. 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, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade