

29 July 2022

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proactive release

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

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

OIA 28160

Tēnā koe Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your email of 28 June 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Can you please send me all the correspondence between MFAT, the Foreign Minister, Prime Minister and Helen Clark that relates to John O'Brien, his role as a whistleblower and the allegations of corruption within the UNDP?

The Ministry's records contain no correspondence either to, or from, former Prime Minister Helen Clark within the scope of your request. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you requested does not exist.

The information relevant to your request is attached. We have withheld some information 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;
- 6(b)(ii): to protect the passing of information from an international organisation on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

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 we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents 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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Email and attached update MFAT to MFA's Office 20/05/2022

Kia ora Jess,

Further to our previous background information notes on UNDP governance, please find the latest update, Out of scope

We have been preparing these notes for your information, so the office has some background and talking points in case of media attention. But please let us know if you would prefer submissions to MFA instead.

Kia pai tō mutunga wiki.

Ngā mihi,
Joanna

Informal Note – UNDP governance case update

We update you on potential media interest relating to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 'Standards and Labels' (S&L) case and a New Zealand citizen who worked for UNDP and alleges he was retaliated against for whistle-blowing.

s9(2)(a)

In late 2021, the UN Disputes Tribunal dismissed his appeal against a decision not to launch an independent investigation into his claims of undue process by UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI), malicious reporting and retaliation.

We consider the S&L issues raised by the whistle-blower have been adequately investigated. Multiple reviews in 2020 and 2021 identified systems weaknesses and areas for improvement. A comprehensive Management Action Plan and other recommendations are being implemented, with monthly governance updates and more reviews scheduled in 2022 and 2023 to ensure the responses are sustained and effective. We continue to track and engage on UNDP's progress in implementing recommendations and strengthening systems and processes, in accordance with our governance role.

Background

In 2018, a New Zealander working for UNDP's regional hub in Istanbul alleged financial mismanagement, corruption, fraud and interference with internal audit processes in relation to the S&L project in Russia, and UNDP's failure to protect him as a whistle-blower.

Aotearoa New Zealand did not directly fund the S&L project, which ended in 2017 and was implemented by UNDP with financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). But,

given our broader financial support to UNDP and the GEF, MFAT worked bilaterally and with other donors to ensure UNDP undertook a comprehensive investigation and addressed the governance and systemic issues identified.

In December 2020, the OAI concluded that UNDP's management of the project had been inadequate and potential misconduct merited further investigation. UNDP, the GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF – under which UNDP is also an implementing agency and which also receives funding from Aotearoa New Zealand) have since completed a series of additional reviews and recommended remedial actions.

UNDP's whistle-blower protection policy has been independently acknowledged as strong. Six recommendations to further strengthen implementation of this policy were made by an independent reviewer in June 2021: 4 were immediately implemented and 2 are pending.

Aotearoa New Zealand provides annual core funding to UNDP of \$8 million, \$3 million of which was withheld in 2020-21 pending a satisfactory response by UNDP to the OAI and other reviews. This decision was not made public, but was a signal to UNDP of the strength of Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment on the matter. The suite of independent reviews and implementation of recommendations arising have given MFAT and like-minded donors confidence that UNDP is undertaking substantial changes to strengthen its policies, processes and accountability. As a result we have released the \$3m in funds withheld last year.

We continue to monitor implementation of improvements to UNDP's systems to ensure changes are embedded across the organisation at every level, including through anticipated future reviews. PRUN's introductory call on the UNDP Administrator later in May and the Audit and Ethics sessions of the Annual Board in June are further opportunities to reinforce our expectations at the highest levels.

Media interest

s9(2)(a)

Media coverage in 2019 was primarily in specialised media such as *Foreign Policy* magazine. *Newsroom* covered it in September 2019 and our December 2021 update to you was recently released in response to an OIA request, with only slight redactions. Last year the Ministry provided written responses to a Danish film-maker seeking to use this case in a documentary about how organisations implement anti-corruption policies. The UK's *Daily Mail* published an article referring to the whistle-blower during COP26.

Proposed media talking points (if asked)

Aotearoa New Zealand has worked with other donors in encouraging UNDP to investigate and address significant shortfalls in its handling of a project in Russia that ended in 2017.

While Aotearoa New Zealand did not provide funding for the project, as a donor we have a responsibility to ensure UNDP's governance and project management meet the standard required.

We have closely followed independent reviews of UNDP's work and consider UNDP is taking appropriate remedial actions in response to the findings and recommendations. We will continue to follow and assure ourselves of UNDP's progress in sustaining these changes.

If asked about possible intervention on behalf of a New Zealand whistle-blower

The New Zealand Government does not involve itself in New Zealanders' employment disputes abroad. We cannot ascertain the full facts of such cases and it is not a consular service we offer.

*Pacific and Development Group, MFAT
16 May 2022*

Email chain between MFAT and MFA's Office concluding 11/04/2022

Kia ora Jess,

Further to our update of 25 March, the whistle-blower subsequently contacted us to say s9(2)(a) He has indicated his wish to discuss his experience with officials at some stage.

I hope you are keeping well e hoa.

Ngā mihi,
Joanna

From:THORN, Jessica (Inet) <Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 6 April 2022 8:58 am

To: HESLOP, Joanna (PHM) <Joanna.Heslop@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>; CMD <DM-CMD@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (DS PDG Office) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>; COLLINS, Deb (PHM) <deborah.collins@mfat.govt.nz>; PLUMMER, Adele (PHM) <Adele.Plummer@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Update: UNDP Governance: Possible media interest

Hi Joanna,

A belated thanks for this!

Ngā mihi,

Jess

From: HESLOP, Joanna (PHM) [<mailto:Joanna.Heslop@mfat.govt.nz>]

Sent: Friday, 25 March 2022 4:41 PM

To: Jessica Thorn <Jessica.Thorn@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>;

CMD <DM-CMD@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (DS PDG Office) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>;

COLLINS, Deb (PHM) <deborah.collins@mfat.govt.nz>; PLUMMER, Adele (PHM)

<Adele.Plummer@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Update: UNDP Governance: Possible media interest

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Kia ora Jess,

In advance of potential media interest, please find attached a further update on the on-going UNDP governance case involving a New Zealand whistle-blower.

There has been no change to our proposed media lines since the update we provided to MFA's Office in early December.

Please don't hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions.

Kia pai te mutunga wiki,
Joanna

Joanna Mere Heslop (she/her/ia)

Attachment to email 25/03/2022

Informal Note – UNDP governance case update

We update you on potential media interest relating to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 'Standards and Labels' (S&L) case and a New Zealand citizen working for UNDP who was a whistle-blower and alleges he has been retaliated against.

s9(2)(a)

In late 2021, the independent UN Disputes Tribunal dismissed the whistle-blower's appeal against a UNDP decision not to launch an independent investigation into his claims of undue process by the Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI), malicious reporting, and retaliation.

With regards to the S&L case, officials have engaged closely on strengthening UNDP systems and processes, in accordance with our governance role. Multiple reviews in 2021 identified areas for improvement, and a comprehensive Management Action Plan and other

recommendations are being implemented, with further reviews scheduled in 2022 and 2023 to ensure the responses are effective.

Background

In 2018, a New Zealander working for UNDP's regional hub in Istanbul alleged financial mismanagement, corruption, fraud, collusion, and interference with internal audit processes in relation to the S&L project in Russia, as well as UNDP's failure to protect him as a whistle-blower.

Aotearoa New Zealand did not directly fund the 'S&L' project, which ended in 2017 and was implemented by UNDP with financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). But, given our broader financial support to UNDP and the GEF, MFAT worked bilaterally and with other donors to ensure UNDP undertook a comprehensive investigation and addressed the governance and systemic issues identified.

In December 2020, the OAI concluded that UNDP's management of the project had been inadequate and potential misconduct merited further investigation. UNDP, the GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF – under which UNDP is also an implementing agency and which also receives funding from Aotearoa New Zealand) have since completed a series of additional reviews and recommended remedial actions.

UNDP's whistle-blower protection policy has been independently acknowledged as strong. Six recommendations to further strengthen implementation of this policy were made by an independent reviewer in June 2021: 4 were immediately implemented and 2 are pending.

Aotearoa New Zealand provides annual core funding to UNDP of \$8 million, \$3 million of which was withheld in 2020-21 pending a satisfactory response by UNDP to the OAI and other reviews. This decision was not made public, but was a signal to UNDP of the strength of Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment on the matter.

The suite of independent reviews and implementation of recommendations arising have given MFAT and like-minded donors confidence that UNDP is undertaking substantial changes to strengthen its policies, processes and accountability. As a result we released the \$3m in funds withheld last year. We continue to monitor implementation of improvements to UNDP's systems to ensure the changes are embedded across the organisation at every level, including through anticipated future reviews.

Media interest

s6(b)(ii), s9(2)(a)

Media coverage in 2019 was primarily in specialised media such as *Foreign Policy* magazine. *Newsroom* covered it in September 2019 and our December update to you was recently released in response to an OIA request, with only slight redactions. Last year the Ministry provided written responses to a Danish film-maker seeking to use this case in a documentary about how organisations implement anti-corruption policies. The UK's *Daily Mail* published an article referring to the whistle-blower during COP26.

Proposed media talking points (if asked)

Aotearoa New Zealand has worked with other donors in encouraging UNDP to investigate and address significant shortfalls in its handling of a project in Russia that ended in 2017.

While New Zealand did not provide direct funding for that project, as a donor we have an interest and a responsibility to ensure UNDP's governance systems and management of projects meet the standard required.

We have closely followed independent reviews of UNDP's work and consider UNDP is taking appropriate remedial actions in response to the findings and recommendations. We will continue to follow and assure ourselves of UNDP's progress in sustaining these changes.

If asked about whether the Ministry will intervene on behalf of a New Zealand whistle-blower

The New Zealand Government does not involve itself in New Zealanders' employment disputes abroad. We cannot ascertain the full facts of such cases and it is not a consular service we offer.

*Pacific and Development Group, MFAT
25 March 2021*

Email and informal note MFAT to MFA's office 3/12/2021

Kia ora Jess,

The UNDP Governance issue has developed since the note we sent to MFA in advance of COP26, and there is a high likelihood of media activity in the coming period.

We therefore provide an update on the situation, and note that the proposed (reactive) talking points have not changed.

Ngā mihi,
Joanna

Informal Note – UNDP governance case update

Overview

We update you on potential media interest relating to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 'Standards and Labels' case and a New Zealand citizen working for UNDP who was a whistle-blower and alleged irregularities. Further media interest is likely.

Officials have engaged closely on identifying issues and strengthening systems and processes, in accordance with our governance role. Multiple reviews over the past year have identified areas for improvement, and a comprehensive Management Action Plan and other responses are being implemented. We are now satisfied with UNDP's response and will release \$3m in core funding that had been withheld. Officials advised the whistle blower today that they are satisfied with UNDP's progress.

s9(2)(a)

Background

In 2018, a New Zealander working for UNDP's regional hub in Istanbul alleged financial mismanagement, corruption, fraud and collusion, as well as interference with internal audit processes, and UNDP's failure to protect him as a whistle-blower.

Aotearoa New Zealand did not directly fund the 'Standards and Labels' project in Russia question, which was financed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UNDP, and ended in 2017. But, given our broader financial support to UNDP and the GEF, MFAT worked bilaterally and with other donors to ensure UNDP undertook a comprehensive investigation and addressed the governance and systemic issues identified.

In December 2020, the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI) concluded that UNDP's management of the project had been inadequate and potential misconduct merited further investigation. UNDP, the GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF – which UNDP is also an implementing agency under and which also received funding from Aotearoa New Zealand) have since completed a series of additional reviews and remedial actions.

UNDP's whistle-blower protection policy has been independently acknowledged as strong. Six recommendations to further strengthen implementation of this policy were made by an independent reviewer in June 2021: 4 were immediately implemented and 2 are pending.

Aotearoa New Zealand provides annual core funding to UNDP of \$8 million, \$3 million of which was withheld pending a satisfactory response by UNDP to the OAI and other reviews. This decision was not made public, but was a signal to UNDP of the strength of Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment on the matter. We now have confidence to release funds.

The suite of independent reviews and implementation of recommendations arising have given MFAT and like-minded donors confidence that UNDP has undertaken substantial changes to strengthen its policies, processes and accountability. On-going monitoring of implementation will be necessary to ensure the changes are embedded across the organisation at every level, including through anticipated future reviews.

Media interest

s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Media coverage in 2019 was primarily in specialised media such as *Foreign Policy* magazine. *Newsroom* covered it in September 2019. In 2020, the Ministry has been approached three times by a Danish film-maker seeking to use this case in a documentary about how organisations implement their anti-corruption policies. We provided written responses but declined his requests for interviews. The UK's *Daily Mail* published an article referring to the whistle-blower during COP26.

Proposed media talking points (if asked)

Aotearoa New Zealand has worked with other donors in encouraging UNDP to investigate and address significant shortfalls in its handling of a project in Russia that ended in 2017.

While New Zealand did not provide direct funding for that project, as a donor we have an interest and a responsibility to ensure UNDP's governance systems and management of projects meet the standard required.

We have closely followed independent reviews of UNDP's work over the past year. We consider that UNDP is taking appropriate remedial actions in response to the findings and recommendations of these reviews. We will continue to follow and assure ourselves of UNDP's progress in sustaining these changes.

If asked about whether the Ministry will intervene on behalf of a New Zealand whistle-blower

The New Zealand Government does not involve itself in New Zealanders' employment disputes abroad. We cannot ascertain the full facts of the case and it is not a consular service we offer.

*Pacific and Development Group, MFAT
3 December 2021*

Email chain between MFAT and MFA's Office concluding 08/11/2021

Many thanks Jess.

We are aware the UK's *Daily Mail* has since printed an article very much along the lines anticipated, calling into question the value of climate change funding through major multilaterals and topping

and tailing the article with references to the NZ whistle-blower. The media points in the note remain pertinent if required.

Ngā mihi,
Joanna

From:THORN, Jessica (Inet) <Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 8 November 2021 5:36 PM
To: HESLOP, Joanna (PHM) <Joanna.Heslop@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: COLLINS, Deb (PHM) <deborah.collins@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Update to MFA on UNDP Governance

Hi Joanna,

The Minister read this note as part of her weekend reading. She had no comments on it.

Ngā mihi,

Jess

From: HESLOP, Joanna (PHM) [<mailto:Joanna.Heslop@mfat.govt.nz>]
Sent: Monday, 1 November 2021 4:25 PM
To: Jessica Thorn <Jessica.Thorn@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: COLLINS, Deb (PHM) <deborah.collins@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Update to MFA on UNDP Governance

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Kia ora Jess,

Thank you for reverting so swiftly!

I don't think there is a problem if MFA only gets it on Friday. The paper was to ensure the Office is sighted on a situation that may move quickly if media interest revives, and to ensure MFA is kept up to date on a long-term issue that we last briefed her on in June.

Our coverage of this issue so far has been at R level, given the sensitivity of the issues involved.

Ngā mihi,
Joanna

From:THORN, Jessica (Inet) <Jessica.thorn@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 November 2021 3:41 PM
To: HESLOP, Joanna (PHM) <Joanna.Heslop@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Update to MFA on UNDP Governance

Alternatively, if there is a way to make it in-confidence, we can provide it to the Minister fairly quickly.

J

From: Jessica Thorn
Sent: Monday, 1 November 2021 3:35 PM
To: 'HESLOP, Joanna (PHM)' <Joanna.Heslop@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: COLLINS, Deb (PHM) <deborah.collins@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Update to MFA on UNDP Governance

Hi Joanna,

Great to hear from you!

Thanks for providing this update. Is there an issue if the Minister receives this in her weekend reading this Friday? That'll be the best chance, timing wise for us to get restricted material to her.

Ngā mihi,

Jess

From: HESLOP, Joanna (PHM) [<mailto:Joanna.Heslop@mfat.govt.nz>]
Sent: Monday, 1 November 2021 3:17 PM
To: Jessica Thorn <Jessica.Thorn@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: COLLINS, Deb (PHM) <deborah.collins@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: Update to MFA on UNDP Governance

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Kia ora Jess,

Please find attached an update on a long-running UNDP governance issue, brought to public attention by a New Zealand whistle-blower, and media lines in case of media interest as the current phase of UNDP's response draws to a close.

Aotearoa New Zealand will continue to follow UNDP's on-going response throughout the implementation phase and also through further reviews anticipated for 2022 and 2023. But, given the profile of the case, we wanted to ensure MFA was informed of developments and had media lines ready if necessary.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Looking forward to catching up sometime soon.

Ngā mihi,
Joanna

Attachment to email dated 01/11/2021

Informal Note – UNDP governance case update

Overview

[Document ID]

We update you on potential media interest relating to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 'Standards and Labels' case and a New Zealand citizen working for UNDP who was a whistle blower.

UNDP's response to the case is now winding up: multiple reviews have identified systems and processes to be strengthened, and a comprehensive Management Action Plan has since been implemented. We understand that various disciplinary investigations are also nearing their conclusion.

s9(2)(a)

Background

In 2018, a New Zealander working for UNDP's regional hub in Istanbul alleged financial mismanagement, corruption, fraud and collusion, as well as interference with internal audit processes, and UNDP's failure to protect him as a whistle-blower.

Aotearoa New Zealand did not directly fund the 'Standards and Labels' project in question, which was financed through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNDP and ended in 2017. But, given our broader financial support to UNDP and the GEF, MFAT worked bilaterally and with other donors to ensure UNDP undertook a comprehensive investigation and addressed the governance and systemic issues identified.

In December 2020, the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigation (OAI) concluded that UNDP's management of the project had been inadequate and potential misconduct merited further investigation. UNDP, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF – which UNDP is also an implementing agency under and which Aotearoa New Zealand also contributes funding to) have since completed a series of additional reviews and remedial actions.

UNDP's whistle-blower protection policy has been independently acknowledged as strong. Six recommendations to further strengthen implementation of this policy were made by an independent reviewer in June 2021: four were immediately implemented and two are pending.

Aotearoa New Zealand provides core funding to UNDP of \$8 million per annum, \$3 million of which was recently withheld pending our satisfaction with UNDP's response to the OAI and other findings. Various reviews and UNDP's implementation of recommendations arising are giving MFAT and like-minded donors confidence that the issues identified in the Standards and Labels case are being comprehensively addressed.

Independent reviews by the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility, and UNDP's implementation of 32 recommendations in response to the OAI review, are giving MFAT and like-minded donors' confidence that UNDP has undertaken substantial changes to strengthen its policies, processes and accountability. This month the Green Climate Fund recredited UNDP as an implementing partner.

Media interest

s9(2)(g)(i) Coverage in 2019 was primarily in specialised media such as Foreign Policy magazine. Newsroom covered it in September 2019. In recent months, the Ministry has been approached three times by a Danish film-maker seeking to use this case in a documentary about how organisations implement their anti-corruption policies. We have provided written responses but declined his requests for interviews.

Proposed media talking points (if asked)

Aotearoa New Zealand has worked with other donors in encouraging UNDP to investigate and address significant shortfalls in its handling of a project in Russia that ended in 2017.

While New Zealand did not provide direct funding for that project, as a donor to UNDP we have an interest and a responsibility to ensure UNDP's governance systems and management of projects meet the standard required.

We have closely followed independent reviews of UNDP's work over the past year. We consider that UNDP is taking appropriate remedial actions in response to the findings and recommendations of these reviews. We will continue to follow and assure ourselves of UNDP's progress in sustaining these changes.

If asked about whether the Ministry will intervene on behalf of a New Zealand whistleblower

The New Zealand Government does not involve itself in New Zealanders' employment disputes abroad. We cannot ascertain the full facts of the case and it is not a consular service we offer.

*Pacific and Development Group, MFAT
1 November 2021*

Email and attachment MFAT to MFA's office 15/06/2021

Hi Jess

Attached a briefing note that proposes media lines for approval regarding a long running UNDP governance issue. A Danish journalist has made an enquiry and it is possible that there may be others in due course. Happy to provide any further background that might be useful.

Regards

[Document ID]

Peter

UNDP governance case - Update

Purpose

- We update you on potential media interest in allegations of financial impropriety and inadequate whistleblower protection in a USD\$7.8 million United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-operated project in Russia (now shut down).

Background

- The issue was brought to our attention in 2018 by a New Zealander who works for UNDP in its regional hub in Istanbul. He alleged financial mismanagement, corruption, fraud, collusion, as well as interference with internal audit processes. He also alleged a failure by UNDP to protect himself as a whistleblower.
- Aotearoa New Zealand did not provide direct funding for the project in Russia. Nevertheless, given our broader financial support and interest in prudent financial management by UNDP, the Ministry has been working in concert with other donors to ensure that UNDP has satisfactorily addressed governance issues associated with the project and in UNDP systems more broadly. We have engaged with UNDP bilaterally and through UNDP's governance body.
- s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) in response to sustained concern from Aotearoa New Zealand and other donors, UNDP agreed to commission an independent review of the Russian project. The review, which concluded in December 2020, found UNDP's oversight and management to be inadequate, and that potential misconduct merited further investigation. UNDP is currently undertaking further investigation and a series of remedial actions in response to the review's findings. We expect an update on these actions from UNDP in July 2021.
- Other assessments of UNDP's management of its project portfolios have indicated some similar or related issues, and UNDP has also undertaken to address these through remedial actions. In due course, officials will consider whether further action from Aotearoa New Zealand is required, including, if necessary, in relation to the level or conditions around funding to UNDP. Aotearoa New Zealand provides core funding to UNDP of \$8m per annum and also funds particular UNDP projects.
- In response to concerns around whistleblower protection, we obtained UNDP's whistleblower protection policy and assess that it is satisfactory. We sought and obtained assurances from UNDP that it is following its policy.

Media interest

- s9(2)(g)(i)
Coverage in 2019 was primarily in specialised media such as Foreign Policy magazine. Newsroom previously covered it in September 2019. The Ministry has recently been approached by a Danish film-maker seeking to use this case in a documentary about how organisations implement their anti-corruption policies. We

will decline a request to be interviewed in the documentary. Further similar approaches are possible.

Proposed media talking points

- Aotearoa New Zealand has been working with other donors and UNDP as a result of an independent review that found significant shortfalls in UNDP's handling of a now-closed UNDP project in Russia.
- While New Zealand did not provide direct funding for the project in question, as a donor we have an interest and a responsibility to ensure UNDP's systems and management of projects meet the standard required.
- We expect UNDP to take appropriate remedial actions in response to the review's findings and recommendations, and continue to follow and encourage its progress.

Partnerships, Humanitarian and Multilateral Division
15 June 2021