

18 February 2022

Personal details removed for proactive
release

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I refer to your email of 9 December 2021 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Question 1: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use the Treasury's Living Standards Framework? If yes, How long has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade been using the Treasury's Living Standards Framework? How is the Framework used in decision making? Can you supply an example of this? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) How do you measure against the Framework? Can you supply a recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) What reporting is produced from this measurement? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) If no, Is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade using a wellbeing framework? What is it called? How does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use the wellbeing framework to inform your decision making process? How long has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade been using a wellbeing framework? How is it used in decision making? Can you supply an example of this? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) How do you measure against it? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) What reporting is produced from this measurement? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.)

Question 2: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use a wellness framework in addition to the Treasury's Living Standards Framework? (Please supply a link to the additional wellness framework on an external facing website or an internal document that is approved for release.)

Question 3: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use the Treasury's He Ara Waiora Framework? If yes, How does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use the Treasury's He Ara Waiora Framework in the decision making process? How long has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade been using the Treasury's He Ara Waiora Framework? How is it used in decision making? Can you supply an example of this? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) How do you measure against it? Can you supply the most recent example?

(Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) What reporting is produced from this measurement? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) If no, is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade using a Māori-focused wellbeing framework? What is it called? How does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use their Māori wellbeing framework to inform your decision making process? How long has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade been using your Māori wellbeing framework? How is it used in decision making? Can you supply an example of this? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) How do you measure against it? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.) What reporting is produced from this measurement? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.)

Question 4: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use a Māori focused wellbeing framework in addition to the Treasury's He Ara Waiora Framework? (If yes, please supply a link on an external facing website or an internal document that is approved for release.)

On 27 January 2022, you were informed that the timeline for responding to your request for information was extended to 18 February 2022. Thank you for your patience while this process was completed.

I am pleased to provide a detailed response below with links to the relevant Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) documents. I have summarised the Ministry's response to your questions in the attached Annex.

Living Standards Framework

The Treasury's Living Standards Framework (LSF) helps to achieve the Government's vision of working towards higher living standards for New Zealanders. The LSF and the associated Dashboard of wellbeing indicators released by The Treasury in 2018 largely focused on the domestic settings that support intergenerational well-being, rather than international factors.

In 2019, the Ministry linked its Strategic Framework to the LSF and its four capitals of natural, human, social, financial/physical. This was done in a way that is meaningful and relevant to the Ministry as an organisation. The Ministry contributes to New Zealanders' wellbeing by delivering on our four value propositions: Kaitiakitanga; Security; Influence; and Prosperity, which sit at the heart of our Strategic Framework. In line with our purpose statement – *The Ministry acts in the world to build a safer, more prosperous and more sustainable future for New Zealanders* – everything we do must directly or indirectly benefit Aotearoa New Zealand or New Zealanders. This guides decisions by our senior leaders on priority setting and resource allocation.

The Ministry's [Strategic Intentions 2021-2025](#) (pages 8-9) shows how our work contributes to New Zealanders' wellbeing and the four capitals in the LSF. Our [Annual Report 2020-21](#) reports on the Ministry's previous [Strategic Intentions 2020-2024](#), and outlines in a highlights

section (page 7) and throughout the report, how we have delivered value to New Zealanders and contributed to their wellbeing.

In October 2021, The Treasury updated the LSF to include international factors that influence New Zealanders' wellbeing. Associated indicators are expected to be released in early 2022. The Ministry will develop an approach in response to the updated LSF and associated indicators in 2022.

He Ara Waiora Framework

He Ara Waiora is a framework centred on a te ao Māori view of wellbeing. He Ara Waiora offers principles, derived from Mātauranga Māori, to guide the process of policy development to support intergenerational wellbeing for Māori and all New Zealanders. The principles of kotahitanga, tikanga, whanaungatanga, manākitanga, and tiakitanga emphasise coordination and alignment; partnership; collective and strengths-based actions; protecting and building mana; and stewardship.

The Ministry draws on elements of the framework in line with the uplift of Mātauranga Māori across the public service, as reinforced by the Public Service Act 2020. We recognise its importance and are committed to meeting our obligations as a Treaty partner. Te Tiriti principles of partnership, mutual respect and redress provide the foundation for how Aotearoa New Zealand's foreign policy is conducted. Equally, the Ministry's work is guided by the values that are derived from Aotearoa New Zealand's bicultural heritage – manākitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, and kaitiakitanga.

The Ministry's Māori Engagement Strategy, adopted in 2017, sets out our enduring commitment to and aspirations for our relationship with Māori. This includes our aim to improve the way we engage and partner with Māori, and drive efforts to build Māori capability and capacity in the Ministry.

In August 2021, The Ministry completed a report to further progress our efforts to ensure it has the right systems and structures in place to deliver on the Government's and Ministry's own expectations of Mātauranga Māori capability. A key outcome of this report aims to ensure the Ministry is able to operate in true and enduring partnership with Māori in the work we do for Aotearoa New Zealand. The Ministry has established a Steering Group to support implementation of the report's findings.

The Ministry's previous Strategic Intentions and Annual Reports provide details of how the Ministry's work gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles and our Māori Engagement Strategy. Future Strategic Intentions and Annual Reports will provide updates on progress to implement Mātauranga Māori capability.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie-Anne Lee', with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annex

Question 1: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use the Treasury's Living Standards Framework? If yes, How long has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade been using the Treasury's Living Standards Framework?

Yes, the Ministry has been using the Living Standards Framework (LSF) since 2019.

How is the Framework used in decision making? Can you supply an example of this? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.)

The LSF is aligned to the Ministry's Strategic Framework and reflected through our priority work-programme.

How do you measure against the Framework? Can you supply a recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release)

Measuring against the LSF primarily involves reporting on progress towards relevant work streams, as set out in the Ministry's Strategic Intentions. The Ministry's Annual Report 2020-21 provides the most recent report on the Ministry's performance.

What reporting is produced from this measurement? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release)

See response above.

Question 2: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use a wellness framework in addition to the Treasury's Living Standards Framework? (Please supply a link to the additional wellness framework on an external facing website or an internal document that is approved for release.)

The Ministry applies the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and values from te ao Māori that reflects Aotearoa New Zealand's bicultural heritage. In terms of wellbeing for our staff and their families, the Ministry also applies Sir Mason Durie's Te Whare Tapa Whā as the model for understanding wellbeing. This information can be found on pages 51 and 53 of the Ministry's Annual Report 2020-21.

Question 3: Does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use the Treasury's He Ara Waiora Framework? If yes, How does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade use the Treasury's He Ara Waiora Framework in the decision making process?

The Ministry's foreign policy approach is underpinned by values from te ao Māori, as consistent with He Ara Waiora.

How long has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade been using the Treasury's He Ara Waiora Framework?

The Ministry has drawn on te ao Māori values prior to He Ara Waiora, such as manākitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga, and kaitiakitanga. These values are consistent with He Ara Waiora, and reflected in the Ministry's Māori Engagement Strategy which was developed in 2017.

How is it used in decision making? Can you supply an example of this? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release.)

The Ministry's approach is outlined in the Ministry's Strategic Intentions 2021-2025 and the Annual Report 2020-21 on page 5 and pages 41-43.

How do you measure against it? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release)

The Ministry reports on progress by narrative, including case studies in the Ministry's Annual Report.

What reporting is produced from this measurement? Can you supply the most recent example? (Please provide either a link from your website or an internal document that is approved for release)

Progress on the Ministry's Māori Engagement Strategy is reported in the Ministry's Annual Report.