

18 October 2022

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I refer to your email of 6 September 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. What key objectives outlined in both the Pacific Reset and Resilience Policy have been met thus far since 2017 until 2022?*
- 2. How does New Zealand's (NZ) Pacific Reset/Resilience approach in the Pacific build on the big motivators of NZ's renewed focus on Pacific security and economic wellbeing, environment- and society-related issues that must be addressed and increased focus on the Pacific as a key strategic asset in the eyes of "external parties"?*
- 3. Since New Zealand's reconfiguration of their approach in the Pacific with the Pacific Reset and Resilience, how has New Zealand continued to build on its five principles of engagement with Tonga through understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, collective impact and sustainability?*
- 4. What is New Zealand's approach in the Pacific when it comes to transnational crimes and if criminal deportation is a contributing factor to the growing issues in the region since 2017?*
- 5. How does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's foreign policy objectives in the Pacific align with the Ministry of Justice and Immigration New Zealand's stance on criminal deportation to the Pacific and New Zealand Police's stance on Transnational crime in the Pacific since the inception of the Pacific Reset and Resilience approach the government has taken?*
- 6. What short- and long-term actions does the New Zealand government take when deporting criminals to Tonga to support the Tongan Government and Tongan society to prevent re-offending?*

Please find below a response to your questions.

### **Question 1**

The principles outlined in the Pacific Reset and Resilience policies have underpinned, and continue to underpin, New Zealand's Pacific objectives. Reporting of results from New Zealand's specific Pacific objectives and outcomes from 2017-2021 can be found in the "Pacific Goal" sections of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry's) annual reports: [MFAT](#)

[annual reports | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#). MFAT's Annual Report for 2021-2022 is yet to be published, but will be available at the same link once it is.

## Question 2

New Zealand's home and heart is in the Pacific. Our engagement within the region is steered by our desire for a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and resilient Pacific in which New Zealand operates as a true partner, collaborating with others in the shared stewardship of our Blue Ocean Continent – Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

The Cabinet papers "New Zealand in the Pacific" and "New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: from Reset to Resilience" outline the region's challenges and New Zealand's principles and objectives for how to engage on those issues. The "New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: from Reset to Resilience" paper outlines that a successful resilience approach will work best when it enables other partners to engage in the region in support of Pacific priorities. These papers, and Minister Mahuta's speech "Aotearoa New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: Partnering for Resilience" can be found in the links below:

[Proactive Release – New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: From Reset to Resilience | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(mfat.govt.nz\)](#)

[Aotearoa New Zealand's Pacific Engagement: Partnering for Resilience | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

[Redacted-Cabinet-Paper-for-web-publication-New-Zealand-in-the-Pacific-v2](#)

## Question 3

New Zealand's approach to engagement with Tonga is available in the Ministry's "Tonga Four Year Plan". You can find a link to this document on the Ministry's website: [Tonga | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(mfat.govt.nz\)](#)

## Question 4

The Ministry provides funding through the International Development Cooperation Programme for the New Zealand Transnational Crime Unit (NZ-TCU), which is part of a network of such units across the Pacific aimed at tackling transnational crime in the region. The NZ-TCU is hosted by New Zealand Customs Service.

The Ministry does not hold information on deportations.

## Question 5

New Zealand's foreign policy objectives in the Pacific can be on the Ministry's website [Our strategic direction | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(mfat.govt.nz\)](#) in the "strategic intentions" document. You may wish to refer to the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and New Zealand Police websites for information on their policies.

## Question 6

Aotearoa New Zealand works closely with Pacific governments, including the Government of Tonga, on criminal deportation issues. In advance of deportation, New Zealand law enforcement

agencies share relevant information on criminal deportees with Pacific governments. All people who are sentenced to a custodial or community based sentenced managed by Ara Poutama (New Zealand Corrections), including those who will be deported, are eligible for rehabilitative programmes aimed at reducing their chances of re-offending.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade