

11 October 2022

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OIA28303

Tēnā koe Person

I refer to your email of 17 September 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. Any briefings or Aides Memoire relating to racial Uighur treatment in China provided to the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs or DPMC within the last 12 months*
- 2. Any internal policy documents attached to MFAT internal policy groups providing policy analysis relating to Uighur treatment in China within the last 12 months*
- 3. Any specific emails relating to Uighur treatment communicated to the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs or DPMC within the last 12 months*
- 4. All communications and/or diplomatic cables provided to overseas missions from the NZ Government relating to Uighur issues within the last 12 months*
- 5. Any MFAT internal communications from policy managers/section managers to staff in relation to Uighur related issues in China within the last 12 months*
- 6. All microsoft teams logs (regarding meetings) that relate to Uighur matters from senior section staff within the last 12 months*
- 7. Any text messages from the Chief Executive/Secretary of Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister in relation to Uighur issues relating to China within the last 12 months*
- 8. Any internal memos to the Chief Executive/Secretary of Foreign Affairs from senior leadership on Uighur issues relating to China within the last 12 months*
- 9. Any guidance material provided by communications staff to Ministry staff relating to Uighur issues in China within the last 12 months*
- 10. The numerical amount of staff solely focused on geographical Chinese issues as a section group*
- 11. Dates and times of any meetings conducted between MFAT officials and Chinese Officials within the last 12 months*

12. A full breakdown of any expenditure from MFAT of NZ Officials travelling to China for official business in the last 24 months

Please note that I am available to clarify or refine my request at: 0224347091 and it is the Ombudsman's expectation that this is carried out before refusing or delaying a request.

We conducted an initial scoping of your request and established that as it was currently framed it encompassed a large amount of information, and lacked the due particularity required under section 12(2) of the OIA.

On 23 September 2022, we sent you an email requesting a time to call and discuss your request. To date, we have not received a reply to this email.

On 27 September 2022, we called the phone number you supplied and there was no response. Your answerphone requested that callers do not leave messages, so we did not leave a message. On the same day we emailed you again seeking your engagement in the process of refining your request. We have received no reply to this email, or our follow-up email sent on 30 September 2022.

As we have had no response to our efforts to engage with you to refine your request, as it currently stands, we are refusing your request in full under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade