

7 March 2023

Requestors name redacted for proactive release

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OIA 28451

I refer to your email of 20 December 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*'all briefings relating to this work programme from your respective agencies.*

*I request briefings from the beginning of the work programme to the present day.'*

On 17 January 2023, given the broad nature of your request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) contacted you to refine the scope of your request to be for *all official advice provided to Ministers since 1 July 2022*. As we did not receive a response from you, we have processed your request along this scope.

On 8 February 2023, due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request, you were advised that the timeframes for responding to your request would be extended by 20 working days until 8 March 2023. The Ministry also advised that your request had been partially transferred to the Minister for Trade and Economic Growth, as information had been identified within scope that is more closely connected to the functions of that Minister.

Enclosed as Appendix 1, are extracts from three documents relating to the Ministry's work on enhancing New Zealand's resilience to economic coercion. The remainder of the information in these documents, as well as all other information within scope of your request, is withheld under section 6(a) of the OIA, as the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the national security of New Zealand, and the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

Please also note that there is information on the work being undertaken to counter foreign interference in New Zealand available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website: [dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/countering-foreign-interference](https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/countering-foreign-interference)

The foreign interference work programme also includes developing options to strengthen New Zealand's export controls regime, such as legislation incorporating controls on intangible technology transfers, as part of wider efforts to protect

New Zealand's sensitive technologies. Although there were no briefings relating to export controls within the scope of your request, further information on proposed enhancements to the export controls regime can be found on the Ministry's website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/trading-weapons-and-controlled-chemicals/export-controls-consultation/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/trading-weapons-and-controlled-chemicals/export-controls-consultation/)

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](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 over a light blue horizontal line.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## APPENDIX 1

### Economic Coercion

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#### Key objectives

- To update Australia on New Zealand's domestic and international efforts to build resilience to economic coercion.

#### Talking points

- The New Zealand Government has made a coordinated and proactive effort across government to mitigate the risks of economic coercion by working to open new opportunities for, and increasing support to, our exporters [...]
- We are open to a discussion regarding strengthening rules in the WTO. I am happy for our officials to take this discussion forward.
- New Zealand supports taking forward research, data gathering and analytical work on economic coercion [...] and we would like to work with Australia on this.

#### Background

##### *Domestic economic coercion work programme*

1. Over the past year, there has been a coordinated and proactive effort across government to enable trade diversification and improve resilience to economic coercion. This includes recently negotiated FTAs (the UK and EU), enhanced support for exporters, strengthening and supporting the multilateral trading system, building coalitions and sharing best practice, and ensuring strong relationships with our major partners [...]
2. Officials are currently preparing an updated work programme to build New Zealand's resilience to economic coercion [...]

## Aide Memoire: Progress on Enhancing New Zealand's Resilience to Economic Coercion

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- The Minister of Trade and Export Growth will present this paper, reporting back on work to enhance New Zealand's resilience to economic coercion, and identifying areas for future action. Enhancing the resilience of our trade, including through diversification, is a priority under the Government's foreign interference workplan. It is a key area under the MFAT and NZTE co-led Trade Recovery Strategy, and is consistent with the long-established direction of our trade policy efforts.
- [...] It is for businesses to decide where to invest and trade [...]
- The paper details work across government to enable diversification and improve resilience. This includes recently negotiated FTAs (UK and EU), enhanced support for exporters, strengthening and supporting the multilateral trading system, building coalitions and sharing best practice, and ensuring strong relationships with our major partners.
- [...] and to support diversification efforts at both a systems, sector, and firm level, where appropriate.
- [...] It invites you to report back to Cabinet by December 2022 with an updated plan outlining a work programme for 2023 designed to advance resilience to economic coercion.

### **Economic Division**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
August 2022