

26 July 2023

Personal details removed for  
proactive release

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

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

OIA 28661

Personal details  
Tēnā koe removed for proactive  
release

I refer to your email of 23 May 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *Please describe the role the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade plays in transfers, gifts, or any other provision of police equipment that originated with the New Zealand Police to the Cook Islands Police Service or Niue Police. For example, when New Zealand Police equipment is upgraded or surplus to requirements, under what circumstances would MFAT be involved in facilitating a transfer of old equipment to the Cook Islands Police Service or Niue Police? "Police equipment" refers to the ordinary meaning of that term, i.e. equipment that police have access to as part of their policing functions, such as handcuffs, batons, crowd control shields, drones, TASERS, and pepper spray.*
- *What police equipment has been transferred from New Zealand to the Cook Islands Police Service and/or Niue Police since 1 January 2017? Please provide specifics including the dates that equipment was transferred, and number and type of equipment. Please also provide information on any training associated with the provision of equipment. If information covering all potential transfers of police equipment is not available, please provide information specifically on transfers of equipment that originated with the New Zealand Police.*

On 21 June 2023, the timeframe for responding to your request was extended by 25 working days to 27 July 2023, as responding to your request necessitated consultations with the New Zealand Police (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers). I am now in a position to respond.

Regarding the first part of your request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) plays two key roles in transfers, gifts, or any other provision of police equipment that originated with the New Zealand Police to the Cook Islands Police Service or Niue Police. These two key roles are detailed below:

- Exports of military, dual-use and catch-all goods that may harm New Zealand's security or national interests, or contribute to human rights abuse are controlled, as is the trade of certain chemicals. Further information on the Ministry's Export Controls, including New Zealand's Strategic Goods List (military and dual-use items) can be found on the Ministry's website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/export-controls/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/export-controls/). Please note, enhanced Catch-All provisions were introduced in October 2020.

- Secondly, if equipment is provided at a cost under the Ministry's funded development programme, then our role in consultation with New Zealand Police, is to review the programme's work plan and budget, and confirm to New Zealand Police whether or not to proceed.

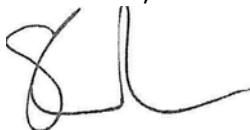
If the New Zealand Police transfers, gifts, or provides police equipment that originated with the New Zealand Police to the Cook Islands or Niue Police Services, and such equipment is not part of a Ministry funded programme, the Ministry does not have a formal role.

Regarding the second part of your request, the Ministry does not hold any additional information that is not already held by the New Zealand Police. For this information, please refer to their response to you (under their reference of 'IR-01-23-15807').

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



Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade