

29 November 2023

Requesters name redacted for proactive release

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OIA 28877

Tēnā koe Requesters name redacted for
proactive release

I refer to your email of 3 November 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

'I am after a list of the various international conferences where MFAT (or another government agency) fund or invite NGO(s) to attend. For example, I understand Business NZ and trade union reps go to international labour conferences with officials.

I'm after a list of the various conferences where NGO delegates and/or academics are invited (whether funded or not).

I am not after the amount of funding or travel support costs. I just want the list of events/conferences/organisations and NGOs that are on MFAT's radar. Please include any which are led by other agencies where MFaT have the information (say the Dept of Labour or MBIE send delegates, but MFAT are aware of it.

In terms of timeframe, let's just do the last three calendar years and any conferences planned (for example global tobacco control meetings: COP10 and MOP3 later in the month which I understand MoH officials and MFAT officials are attending).

For the list of conferences, and organisations/NGOs, please indicate whether travel support or funding is provided by the Government if and where that information is easily available.'

On 14 November 2023 we sought your approval to clarify your request to be for:

A list of conferences hosted and funded by MFAT where MFAT invited NGO(s) to attend in the last 3 calendar years (1 January 2021 – 3 November 2023).

In this refinement email we requested a response from you by 21 November 2023.

Also on the 14 November 2023, we received an out of office from your email account stating you would not be back until after 22 November 2023. Consequently, we delayed our response to your original request in the hope you would get to us upon your return.

As we have not received any response from you, your request for information is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, due to substantial collation and research. We would be happy to assist you in the future if you choose to re-submit your request along the lines we proposed.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information

removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

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 black ink, consisting of a large loop on the left and a series of connected strokes on the right, resembling the initials 'SC'.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade