

14/10/2024

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OIA

Personal details removed for proactive  
release

Thank you for your email of 16 September 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"I am requesting the following information regarding the Tokelau Airstrip.*

- 1. What is the current status of the project?*
- 2. Has construction started? If not, when is the estimated start date?*
- 3. What will the length and width of the runway be?*
- 4. What material will the runway surface be, i.e asphalt*
- 5. How much money has been spent on the project so far?*
- 6. Is MFAT working with other agencies and the Tokelau Government to assist with air traffic control for the airstrip?*
- 7. What facilities will the airstrip have, i.e terminal/hangars*
- 8. When is the Tokelau airstrip project expected to be finished?*
- 9. All documents or briefings relating to the airstrip that have been sent to the Right Honourable Winston Peters since becoming the Minister for Foreign Affairs in November 2023."*

A response to each part of your request is set out below.

- 1. What is the current status of the project?*

The project is currently in the design phase. Following completion of the design, any decision to proceed with the project would be subject to a detailed business case. Given the likely cost of the project, Cabinet level approval would also be required.

- 2. Has construction started? If not, when is the estimated start date?*

The project is in the design phase. There is no estimated construction start date.

- 3. What will the length and width of the runway be?*

The concept design for the Tokelau airstrip is an 800m long and 30m wide runway.

- 4. What material will the runway surface be, i.e asphalt*

This is yet to be confirmed as the design is still underway.

*5. How much money has been spent on the project so far?*

Up until 31 August 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) had spent NZ\$1,621,873.12 (excluding GST) on the project.

*6. Is MFAT working with other agencies and the Tokelau Government to assist with air traffic control for the airstrip?*

As the project is still in design, the appropriate level of the air traffic service provision is yet to be determined. MFAT is working in close partnership with the Government of Tokelau on the project, and in consultation with the New Zealand Ministry of Transport and the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority as appropriate.

*7. What facilities will the airstrip have, i.e terminal/hangars*

The concept design includes a terminal building.

*8. When is the Tokelau airstrip project expected to be finished?*

As there is no planned or expected start date for the construction of the Tokelau airstrip, there is currently no expected finish date.

*9. All documents or briefings relating to the airstrip that have been sent to the Right Honourable Winston Peters since becoming the Minister for Foreign Affairs in November 2023.*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

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/](http://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](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