

13 November 2024

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Personal details removed for proactive release

OIA 29780

Thank you for your email of 26 October 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Please provide a list of communications the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has had with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) since May 2024. The information should include:*

- 1. Date of each communication*
- 2. Subject matter of each communication.*

*For ease of processing, the subject matter can be listed as to whether it pertains to any of the following topics:*

- Attacks on journalists*
- Attacks on hospitals*
- Attacks on humanitarian organisations*
- Attacks on cultural heritage*
- Attacks on civilian infrastructure*
- Attacks on civilians*
- Veracity of Israeli claims*
- Other."*

## Background

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has proactively released a large volume of information relating to the Israel-Hamas conflict on the Ministry's website here:

<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/middle-east/israel-hamas-conflict>

## Response to your request

Please see the following table for a list of communications in scope of your request.

Date	Subject matter
12 August 2024 – 2 September 2024	<p>Email correspondence between the Defense Attaché in the Embassy of Israel in Canberra, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) Export Control team and New Zealand Defence Force. The correspondence relates to an enquiry from the Defense Attaché on an export request from a New Zealand company, the name of which is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA: to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party.</p> <p>Further information on MFAT's Export Control's team can be found on our website here:  <a href="https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/export-controls">https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/export-controls</a>.</p>
2 May 2024	<p>Senior MFAT officials engaged with their counterparts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) about their international law obligations. Officials have raised specific concerns about the IDF's compliance with international humanitarian law and reports of Israeli strikes on United Nations (UN) and humanitarian facilities in Gaza.</p> <p>Further details of this meeting are withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the OIA: to maintain legal professional privilege.</p>

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

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