

24 June 2025

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Personal details removed for proactive release

OIA 30157

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 25 May 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. The Government decision on 9 November 2009 to recognise the State of Kosovo.*
- 2. The Cabinet Legislation Committee Minute of Decision concerning the decision to recognise Kosovo including the recommendation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to recognise the State of Kosovo.*
- 3. The reasons stated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his decision to recommend the recognition of Kosovo.*

New Zealand has a long-standing policy of not making formal acts of recognition or non-recognition of states. Instead, recognition or otherwise is to be inferred by the nature and level of New Zealand's dealings with Kosovo. As such, no documents exist that record a formal decision to recognise Kosovo, nor any related Cabinet or ministerial documentation. Accordingly, your request is refused in full under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you have requested does not exist.

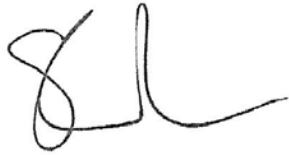
New Zealand adopts a pragmatic approach to defining diplomatic relations; contacts over time with another state at ministerial, diplomatic, or senior officials' level are considered to constitute the conduct of diplomatic relations. These may occur in the context of bilateral meetings, or through multilateral diplomacy - for example, at the United Nations.

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 stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small upward stroke.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade