

18 July 2025

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OIA 30205

Personal details removed for proactive release.

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"I am emailing to find out about statistics related to consular cases throughout history. Where a New Zealander has been wrongfully identified overseas as a suspect, offender, or person, and has been wrongfully charged and served jail time. E.g., through facial identification and CCTV.
I'm not asking for PII information, but if there is anything publicly known, please advise."*

While records of consular cases where New Zealanders seek assistance when overseas are maintained, and some of these case files may contain some of the information you have requested, this information is not held in a readily retrievable format. To establish if there is any information potentially in scope of your request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade would need to manually review all individual consular case files since the consular assistance programme began. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA because the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

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, appearing to be 'SC' followed by a horizontal line.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade