

Personal details removed for proactive release.

Thank you for your email of 4 July 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I'm getting in touch under the Official Information Act to please request.

- 1. the 8/05/25 submission titled Papua New Guinea: New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service, which is mentioned in this OIA at this link: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2025/OIA-30176-May-Briefing-Titles-to-MFA-30-June-2025.pdf>.*
- 2. In addition, in the same document linked above, am I please able to get the 19/05/25 informal note titled China/Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers Meeting?*
- 3. Am I also please able to get the following, also mentioned in that link in relation to the conflict in Gaza:*
 - a. New Zealand's voting position on two resolutions related to Palestine in the 78th session of the World Health Assembly,*
 - b. Israel/Palestine - Policy Settings,*
 - c. Humanitarian and stabilisation support for Gaza and the West Bank."*

Please note we have numbered your request for administrative purposes.

Response to your request

Please find attached the document titled, *Submission - Papua New Guinea - New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service*, in response to part one of your request. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.

Regarding part two of your request please find attached the document titled, *Informal Note China-PIC Foreign Ministers Meeting*. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

In response to part three 3 (a) of your request, please find attached the document titled *NZ Voting position 78th session of the World Health Assembly*. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

Regarding question three (b), this document *Submission - Israel-Palestine Policy Settings - May 2025* will soon be publicly available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry) website by 29 August 2025 with some information withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under s18(d) of the OIA:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/middle-east/israel-hamas-conflicteign Affairs and Trade Regarding question three (c), this document is in scope of this part of your request '*Submission - Humanitarian and stabilisation support for Gaza and the West Bank May 2025*' and is publicly available on the Ministry's website. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under s18(d) of the OIA:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/proactive-release-humanitarian-and-stabilisation-support-for-gaza-and-the-west-bank

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/

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 'O' followed by a horizontal line and a loop.

Owen Thornber
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade



8 May 2025

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

15 May 2025

Papua New Guinea: New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service

BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE To seek your approval for \$25.9m to deliver New Zealand's new five-year package of support to the Bougainville Police Service.

Recommended referrals

Minister of Police

For information by

15 May 2025

Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Katy Donnelly	Acting Divisional Manager	Pacific Melanesia and Micronesia Division	s9(2)(a)
Steve Hamilton	Lead Adviser	Pacific Melanesia and Micronesia Division	

Minister's Office to complete

☐ Approved☐ Noted☐ Referred☐ Needs amendment☐ Declined☐ Withdrawn☐ Overtaken by events☐ See Minister's notes**Comments**

Papua New Guinea: New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service

Key points

- Bougainville needs and deserves a functional police service. s6(a)
- This has negative effects on community safety, stability, and public confidence in the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), with particular consequences for women and children.
- s6(a)
- The Papua New Guinea - Australian Policing Partnership (PNG-APP), with its mix of advisory and operational support, is important for the rest of Papua New Guinea, and valued by the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC).
- The ABG want a similar model of support from New Zealand in Bougainville, and have requested that our next phase of support delivers both advisory and tangible support to assist with some of the key resource and skills constraints facing the BPS.
- New Zealand's proposed new five-year package of support has been co-designed with key partners, including the RPNGC, BPS, ABG, New Zealand Police (NZP) and Australia.
- This new package of support, costing at \$25.9m, aims to improve basic policing services across Bougainville's villages and towns by investing in police training and leadership development, revitalising the community police network, strengthening the corporate core, and addressing some of the key gaps in infrastructure and equipment. It will be funded from the International Development Cooperation appropriation.
- s6(a)



Bernadette Cavanagh
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Papua New Guinea: New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Note the ongoing need for better Policing services in Bougainville; that the Autonomous Bougainville Government want something a similar model of support to what Australian Federal Police delivers elsewhere in Papua New Guinea; and | Yes / No |
| 2 | s6(a) | Yes / No |
| 3 | Approve \$25.9m of International Development Cooperation funding to deliver a new package of policing support to Bougainville over five years (2025 – 2030); | Yes / No |
| 4 | Refer a copy of this submission to the Minister of Police for his information. | Yes / No |

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

Papua New Guinea: New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service

Report

1. s6(a)
2. Supporting the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) and Bougainville Police Service (BPS) to deliver effective police services across Bougainville will facilitate continued peace and security, and assist local communities to address crime and promote stability.
3. New Zealand has a long-standing legacy of supporting stability, peace and policing in Bougainville. This submission proposes a further evolution of New Zealand's policing support, in response to current needs and partner feedback. New Zealand Police has been consulted in this process.

Outline of the project

State of policing services in Bougainville

4. s6(a)
6. Under the terms of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the ABG has drawn down a range of powers, with policing one of the first to be (partially) drawn down. s6(a)

Bougainville community needs

7. s6(a)

Papua New Guinea: New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service

8. s6(a)

New Zealand support

9. New Zealand's recent phases of support to policing in Bougainville have focused on strengthening the BPS institutional capacity through the deployment of New Zealand police advisors to Bougainville's three urban centres, Buka, Arawa and Buin, to work alongside their BPS counterparts in a mentoring capacity. While these advisors have been well received, there is broad agreement, including through a recent evaluation, that technical advice in isolation of significant operational, leadership and training constraints is not delivering the lift in capability that the BPS needs.

10. Additionally, s6(a)

11. The BPS Chief of Police is conscious of the substantive operational and advisory support being provided elsewhere to the RPNGC under the Papua New Guinea - Australian Policing Partnership (PNG-APP), including targeted advisory support to improve investigation processes, training and operational support, and has requested something similar from New Zealand.

12. s6(a), s9(2)(j)

13. Support would focus on the delivery of basic police refresher training to all sworn and auxiliary police, designing and delivering a leadership development programme to a cohort of BPS leaders, strengthening BPS corporate services (including funding for BPS Logistics, Finance and Human Resource positions), rebuilding the BAP programme (including co-funding BAP allowances with the ABG) and targeted funding for critical equipment and infrastructure, including the renovation of the Hutjena Police Training Centre in Buka.

14. s6(a), s9(2)(j)

15. The amount of new funding (from within existing IDC allocations) being sought for this five-year investment is \$25.9m. A high-level budget breakdown is as follows:

Papua New Guinea: New Zealand's new package of support for the Bougainville Police Service

Forecast spend per component of support	Totals
NZP Police Technical Adviser costs	15,183,087
Objective 1: Training and leadership programmes	2,252,600
Objective 2: Auxiliary police support	3,000,000
Objective 3: Strengthening the corporate core	1,316,250
Objective 4: Critical infrastructure and equipment	3,247,500
MERL costs	900,000
<i>Total activity cost</i>	25,899,437

Risks and mitigations

16. s6(a)

Resourcing

19. This initiative, amounting to NZ\$25.9m over five years, has been planned for and is available within the IDC Papua New Guinea bilateral allocation for this and – subject to appropriations – the next triennium. Ministry management of this initiative will be resourced within current staffing. s6(a)

Informal Note — China/Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers Meeting

Background

- China will host a **China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Minister's Meeting** ("the Meeting") from 28-29 May in Xiamen. New Zealand and Australia have not been invited, nor have the French Pacific territories or Taiwan-recognising countries¹. The inaugural meeting was held virtually in 2021 and the second in Suva in 2022 during State Counsellor Wang Yi's tour of the Pacific.^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}
- New Zealand's position on external countries meeting with the Pacific is that engagement should advance Pacific priorities, be consistent with regional practices and support Pacific regional institutions. Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders agreed in 2019 that Dialogue Partners, including China, should be meeting the Pacific as a PIF group. Initiatives like China's undermine Leaders' directives and are duplicative of existing Pacific-led mechanisms. We have articulated this position very clearly to China over several years, and our Ambassador in Beijing has reiterated it recently in engagements^{s6(a)}
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- ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

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¹ Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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Next steps

s6(a)

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Pacific Regional Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
19 May 2025

Annex A

Media Lines – if asked before the meeting or before any Joint Statement is released.

- ^{s9(2)(g)(i)}
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Released under the Official Information Act



21 May 2025

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

21 May 2025

New Zealand's voting position on two resolutions related to Palestine in the 78th session of the World Health Assembly

BRIEFING Decision Submission

PURPOSE To recommend New Zealand's voting position on a resolution extending the International Health Regulations to Palestine and a resolution on raising flags of non-Member Observer States at World Health Organisation Headquarters and Offices.

Recommended referrals

Prime Minister	For information by	22 May 2025
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs	For information by	22 May 2025
Minister of Health	For information by	22 May 2025

Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Angela Hassan-Sharp	Divisional Manager	United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division	s9(2)(a)
Carl Reaich	Divisional Manager	Legal Division	

Minister's Office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

Comments

New Zealand's voting position on two resolutions related to Palestine in the 78th session of the World Health Assembly

Key Points

1. New Zealand is participating in the annual World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva. Palestine has proposed two resolutions which relate to its participation in the World Health Organisation (WHO). The first resolution is to allow Palestine to become party to the International Health Regulations. The second seeks to allow non-Member Observer States to fly their national flags outside the WHO offices. We provide advice on both resolutions below.

Palestine requests to join the International Health Regulations (IHRs)

2. Palestine is a non-Member Observer State at the WHO and cannot vote in WHO processes.
3. It is open to non-Member WHO Observer States, including Palestine, to signal their intention to the Director General of the WHO to become a party to the IHRs under Article 64 of the IHR. It is not necessary for States Parties to the IHR to be UN Member States.
4. There are already two parties to the IHRs under this provision: Liechtenstein (which is not a member of the WHO) and the Holy See (which is a non-Member Observer State of the WHO, the same status as Palestine).
5. The IHRs contemplate that all States Parties have jurisdiction over their territory and can give effect to the obligations contained in the IHRs, s9(2)(g)(i)

New Zealand's approach to recognition of Palestinian statehood

6. s9(2)(g)(i)

7. New Zealand has supported Palestine's participation in international organisations:
 - 7.1. In May 2024 New Zealand, alongside Australia, supported the UN resolution that conferred significant enhancements to Palestine's status at the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies.¹
 - 7.2. New Zealand's Explanation of Vote stated: "New Zealand also recognises the importance of Palestinian participation in the UN and other international bodies."²
 - 7.3. New Zealand has supported Palestine to join other international bodies, including UNESCO in 2011 and non-Member Observer State' status to the United Nations in 2012 (which New Zealand supported).

Support for Palestine's membership has the following implications:

8. *Universalisation of health policy:* The purpose of the IHRs is to prevent, protect against, control, and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease.

¹ Resolution A/ES-10/L.30/Rev.1

² United Nations General Assembly: 10th Emergency Special Session | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

New Zealand's voting position on two resolutions related to Palestine in the 78th session of the World Health Assembly

9. Some states may oppose the resolution out of concern that their support for the resolution may be construed as support of Palestinian statehood. It is open to New Zealand to provide an Explanation of Vote which reiterates New Zealand's position in regard to non-recognition of Palestinian statehood.

Raising the Flags of Non-Member Observer States at WHO Offices

10. Currently non-Member Observer States to the WHO do not have their flags flown outside the WHO Headquarters and Offices in Geneva alongside Member States. This resolution seeks to allow non-Member Observers to do so. While the resolution does mention Palestine by name in some sections, the operative paragraphs are country-agnostic.
11. This resolution is closely modelled on the 2015 UN General Assembly resolution where Member States voted to allow the Palestinian flag to be raised at the UN complex in New York. New Zealand was one of the 119 countries to vote in favour of this resolution (only eight countries opposed).

Positions of other states

12. We have remained in close touch with our partners on this resolution. In terms of their current intentions:
s6(a)

Proposed approach

13. s9(2)(g)(i) , our recommendation is that New Zealand support both resolutions in line with our current policy objectives and vote **Yes in good company** s9(2)(g)(i)

This would be consistent with our approach to Palestine's participation in technical bodies. Officials propose that New Zealand deliver an EOV following a Yes vote that will confirm our position on Palestinian statehood. This will be similar to the EOV that we delivered in the UN General Assembly last year.

14. s9(2)(g)(i)



Victoria Hallum
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

New Zealand's voting position on two resolutions related to Palestine in the 78th session of the World Health Assembly

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Note that the International Health Regulations (IHRs) explicitly provide that the IHRs can apply to non-Member Observer States to the World Health Organisation, including Palestine. | Yes / No |
| 2 | Note that it is open to New Zealand to support Palestine joining the IHRs, s6(a) | Yes / No |
| 3 | Note that New Zealand has supported Palestine's participation in international organisations, including the UN resolution that conferred significant enhancements to Palestine's status at the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies. | Yes / No |
| 4 | Agree that New Zealand should vote in favour of the proposed IHR resolution in good company s9(2)(g)(i) | Yes / No |
| 5 | Agree that New Zealand should vote in favour of the proposed Flag resolution in good company s9(2)(g)(i) | Yes / No |
| 6 | Agree that New Zealand deliver a clear Explanation of Vote in the case of a Yes vote that confirms our votes do not imply recognition of Palestinian statehood (a draft EOv is included in Annex One). | Yes / No |
| 7 | s9(2)(g)(i) | Yes / No |
| 8 | Refer a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister, Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Health for information. | Yes / No |

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

New Zealand's voting position on two resolutions related to Palestine in
the 78th session of the World Health Assembly
Annex One: Draft Explanation of Vote

Mr President,

New Zealand voted [Yes] on the resolutions before the World Health Assembly today in order to support the IHR's purpose of preventing, protecting against, controlling, and providing a public health response to the international spread of disease.

New Zealand voted in favour of these resolutions with the clear intention that our support does not imply recognition of Palestinian statehood.

Thank you.

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