

14 August 2025

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Personal details removed for proactive  
release.

Thank you for your email of 21 July 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"Please provide all internal analysis and correspondence by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade about Aotearoa's international obligations relating to ocean fertilisation, including any consideration of the 2013 amendment to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention (Resolution LP 4(8))."*

On 4 August 2025, we contacted you regarding the scope of your request and proposed the refinement of:

*"Please provide all internal analysis and official correspondence by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1 January 2025 onwards relating to Aotearoa New Zealand's international obligations in relation to ocean fertilisation, including any consideration of the 2013 amendment to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention (Resolution LP 4(8))."*

The above refinement was accepted by your colleague, s9(2)(a) in your absence on 4 August 2025.

The information you have requested is withheld in full, including the titles, under section 9(2)(h) of the OIA, to maintain legal professional privilege.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade