

23 September 2025

OIA 30348

Personal details removed for proactive release.

Thank you for your email of 12 August 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request the following information:

- 1. The number of New Zealand residents or citizens who have registered a trip to Afghanistan via SafeTravel from 1 January 2021 to the present date.*
 - Please also provide the month and year of each registration.*
 - If available, please include the stated reason for travel, with a view to identifying whether any were for leisure purposes.*
- 2. The number of New Zealand residents or citizens who have contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade about plans to travel to Afghanistan, or who have sought help or guidance while in Afghanistan, since 1 January 2021.*
 - Please also provide the month and year of each contact.*
 - If available, please include the stated reason for travel, with a view to identifying whether any were for leisure purposes.*
- 5. Any documents, reports, emails, or briefing notes (internal or external) held by the Ministry from 1 January 2021 to the present that relate to:*
 - A rise in tourism marketing or promotional content encouraging travel to Afghanistan (including on social media); and/or*
 - Any concerns, assessments, or public messaging considered by MFAT regarding New Zealanders travelling to Afghanistan for leisure."*

On 20 August 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) contacted you to discuss the scope of your request, because as it was originally framed it captured a significant volume of information.

On 21 August 2025, you agreed to refine the scope of your request to be for:

- 1. The number of New Zealand residents or citizens who have registered a trip to Afghanistan via SafeTravel from 1 January 2022 to the present date.*

- *Please also provide the month and year of each registration.*
 - *If available, please include the stated reason for travel, with a view to identifying whether any were for leisure purposes.*
2. *The number of New Zealand residents or citizens who have contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade about plans to travel to Afghanistan, or who have sought help or guidance while in Afghanistan, since 1 January 2022.*
- *Please also provide the month and year of each contact.*
 - *If available, please include the stated reason for travel, with a view to identifying whether any were for leisure purposes.*
- 3 *Any documents, reports, emails, or briefing notes (internal or external) held by the Ministry from 1 January 2022 to the present that relate to:*
- *A rise in tourism marketing or promotional content encouraging travel to Afghanistan (including on social media); and/or*
 - *Any concerns, assessments, or public messaging considered by MFAT regarding New Zealanders travelling to Afghanistan for leisure."*

We note that the evacuation of New Zealanders and others from Afghanistan (Operation Whakahokinga Mai) resulted in the creation of a very large amount of information. Your request seeks information about registrants in Afghanistan, and New Zealanders in Afghanistan seeking assistance, since 1 January 2022, which includes information about people affected by those events. However, on the basis of your advice that your interest is in travellers to Afghanistan "for leisure purposes", we have not included information regarding Operation Whakahokinga Mai in this response.

In response to part one of your request, in the period 1 January 2022 to 12 August 2025 79 people have been or are registered on SafeTravel as living in or travelling to Afghanistan. This information is provided in **Annex One** below.

Registrants on SafeTravel are not required to state the reason for their travel. No provision is made for this information to be entered in SafeTravel's registration portal, and therefore your request for this information is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

In response to part two of your request, between 1 January 2022 and 12 August 2025 consular assistance was provided to eight individuals in Afghanistan. The month, year, and purpose of each engagement are in the following table:

New Zealanders in Afghanistan seeking assistance 1 Jan 2022 – 12 Aug 2025

Date	Number of New Zealand Citizens	Purpose of travel
January 2022	5	Family reasons
March 2023	1	Family reasons
February 2024	1	Family reasons
July 2024	1	Family reasons

Please note, none of these individuals indicated travel for leisure purposes.

In response to part three of your request, the Ministry does not hold any information regarding a rise in tourism, marketing, or promotional content encouraging travel to

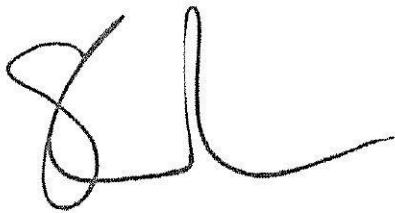
Afghanistan. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

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 loop.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annex One:

Afghanistan SafeTravel registrants 1 Jan 2022 – 12 Aug 2025					
Departure Date	Month	Year	Departure Date	Month	Year
27/03/2022	March	2022	28/08/2024	August	2024
27/03/2022	March	2022	28/08/2024	August	2024
27/03/2022	March	2022	6/09/2024	September	2024
27/03/2022	March	2022	7/09/2024	September	2024
27/03/2022	March	2022	20/10/2024	October	2024
27/03/2022	March	2022	20/10/2024	October	2024
28/03/2022	March	2022	20/10/2024	October	2024
28/03/2022	March	2022	8/11/2024	November	2024
8/04/2022	April	2022	4/12/2024	December	2024
4/07/2022	July	2022	30/01/2025	January	2025
2/08/2022	August	2022	30/01/2025	January	2025
10/08/2022	August	2022	13/02/2025	February	2025
15/10/2022	October	2022	13/02/2025	February	2025
17/11/2022	November	2022	15/02/2025	February	2025
1/12/2022	December	2022	15/02/2025	February	2025
1/12/2022	December	2022	15/02/2025	February	2025
1/12/2022	December	2022	16/02/2025	February	2025
4/02/2023	February	2023	13/04/2025	April	2025
4/02/2023	February	2023	6/05/2025	May	2025
4/02/2023	February	2023	14/05/2025	May	2025
4/02/2023	February	2023	14/06/2025	June	2025
4/02/2023	February	2023	14/06/2025	June	2025
30/05/2023	May	2023	14/06/2025	June	2025
9/06/2023	June	2023	14/06/2025	June	2025
17/08/2023	August	2023	25/06/2025	June	2025
6/09/2023	September	2023	27/07/2025	July	2025
5/10/2023	October	2023	27/07/2025	July	2025
5/10/2023	October	2023	30/07/2025	July	2025
1/11/2023	November	2023	30/07/2025	July	2025
2/11/2023	November	2023	30/07/2025	July	2025
2/11/2023	November	2023	30/07/2025	July	2025
14/11/2023	November	2023	30/07/2025	July	2025
29/01/2024	January	2024	30/07/2025	July	2025
1/03/2024	March	2024	30/07/2025	July	2025
1/03/2024	March	2024	30/07/2025	July	2025
26/03/2024	March	2024	30/07/2025	July	2025
4/06/2024	June	2024	2/08/2025	August	2025
28/08/2024	August	2024	2/08/2025	August	2025