

4 September 2025

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OIA 30368

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *What do Diplomats overseas?*
- *Do Diplomats help local law enforcement overseas?*
- *What do Diplomats do in works of the Bail Process, ASEAN and Terrorism?"*

On 25 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 did not specify with due particularity the information you are requesting, as required by section 12(2) of the OIA.

We did not receive a response from you to rescope your request, therefore we have interpreted your request to be for information about the role of New Zealand's Diplomatic Missions overseas. Information on this is provided below.

The functions of a diplomatic mission and its accredited diplomats and consular officers are set out in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic relations 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963. This includes representing New Zealand in the foreign country; promoting friendly relations; reporting on developments in the foreign country; and providing consular assistance to New Zealanders who are in that country. This work may include engagement with the local law enforcement.

Information about the Ministry's work in the other areas you reference is available on our website at the links below:

- ASEAN - <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-in-force/asean-australia-new-zealand-free-trade-agreement-aanzfta>
- Bali process - <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/international-security/people-smuggling-and-human-trafficking>
- Counter terrorism - <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/international-security/international-security>

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 over a faint horizontal line.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade