

20 November 2025

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OIA 30481

s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 8 October 2025, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request:

- 1. Any memoranda of understanding, agreements, or arrangements currently in force between New Zealand and Australian government agencies relating to data sharing, information exchange, or interoperability of digital identity or border security systems.*
- 2. Any documents, briefings, or internal correspondence incld. the summarised sharing of intelligence or personal data between New Zealand and Australian agencies, from 1 January 2020 to the present."*

On 17 October 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) contacted you to advise that it would have been necessary under section 14 of the OIA to transfer part one of your request to the Departments of Internal Affairs (DIA), because the information requested is held by that agency. However, we are aware that you have made the same request directly to DIA and therefore it has not been transferred.

In the same correspondence, we discussed the scope of part two of your request. As originally framed, it would capture a significant volume of information requiring review to determine what was within scope, which would negatively impact the Ministry's operations. We did not receive a response from you to narrow the scope of your OIA. Accordingly, part two of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If you would like to make a refined request in the future, please contact us at:
DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz.

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 stylized flourish.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade