

10 December 2025

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OIA 30528

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Proactive Release

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Tēnā koe for Proactive Release

Thank you for your email of 28 October 2025, transferred from the Minister of Foreign Affairs on 31 October 2025, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Please provide all emails/ briefings sent or received by the Minister to/from officials at MFAT containing the word 'Haskel' or 'Haskel-Harpaz', or 'Sharren' in the months of August, September and October 2025."

Please see attached the information in scope 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;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 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.

One of the email chains in scope of your request relates to the drafting of a Written Parliamentary Question, and the draft response is withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments. The final response to this question can be found at the following link: questions.parliament.nz/written-questions/question/WQ_50065_2025?lang=en

One of the email chains in scope of your request related to the drafting of an Oral Parliamentary Question. The question was the following asked by Teanau Tuiono to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Does he agree with the Prime Minister that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has "lost the plot"; if so, why? The answer to this question can be found here: https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/combined/HansDeb_20250814_20250814_16

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, appearing to be 'SC' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 3:47 pm
s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Proposed visit to NZ of Israeli Deputy FM - call from the Israeli Ambassador
[SEC=IN CONFIDENCE]

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Excellent plan.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

X-MFAT-MOBILE

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Date: Friday, 22 Aug 2025 at 3:17 PM
s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Proposed visit to NZ of Israeli Deputy FM - call from the Israeli Ambassador
[SEC=IN CONFIDENCE]

s6(a)

Suggest we refer

these queries to Israeli Embassy.

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 2:41 PM

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Proposed visit to NZ of Israeli Deputy FM - call from the Israeli Ambassador
[SEC=IN CONFIDENCE]

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

IN-CONFIDENCE

This time actually copying s9(2)(g)(ii) . TGIF.

IN-CONFIDENCE

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 2:40 PM

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Proposed visit to NZ of Israeli Deputy FM - call from the Israeli Ambassador
[SEC=IN CONFIDENCE]

Hi s9(2)(g)(ii)

For your visibility, I've just had a voice message from the Israeli Ambassador to let me know that it is possible the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel^{s6(a)} will look to visit New Zealand later this year

(October). s6(b)(i)

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

s6(a)

Earlier this afternoon, we had a media inquiry from RNZ about whether she was planning to visit, as part of a wider trip to the Pacific. This was prior to the Ambassador's message and we advised we (MFAT) were not aware. We've just spoken to MEDIA which has confirmed that they haven't responded to RNZ yet.

We don't have any further details at this stage – the Ambassador's note to us may have been promoted by a similar RNZ inquiry. We propose that MEDIA respond:

MFAT has been advised by the Israeli Embassy that the Deputy Foreign Minister has expressed interest in visiting New Zealand later this year. We have no further details at this stage.

Best,

s9(2)
(a)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Middle East and Africa Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) **E** s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sign up for MFAT's Market Intelligence Reports here: <https://mfat-reports.info/vb>

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 9:39 pm

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Talking points: Transit/Visit of Israeli Deputy FM Sharren Haskel
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

To note, in case everyone doesn't already know this: MFA won't be in NZ when this transit happens s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

Just one point on the talking points: s6(a)

Best

s9(2)(g)
(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 11:36 PM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Talking points: Transit/Visit of Israeli Deputy FM Sharren Haskel
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Received with thanks s9(2)(g)(ii) . I'll share with PMO on an if-needed-only basis.

[Document ID]

Ngā mihi

s9(2)
(g)(ii)

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 3:35 pm

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Talking points: Transit/Visit of Israeli Deputy FM Sharren Haskel
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Adding s9(2)(g) in s9(2)(g)(ii) absence.

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 3:33 pm

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Talking points: Transit/Visit of Israeli Deputy FM Sharren Haskel

s9(2)(g)(ii) you asked for TPs on the forthcoming transit of Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel. I understand both the PM and MFA's office are receiving approaches on this, s6(a)

We have previously responded to media enquiries on the visit, and directed them to the Israeli Embassy. The Israeli Embassy has advised us of the transit by TPN but not formally requested any Ministerial calls. We have also

[Document ID]

explained that she does not have a counterpart. Let me know if you have any further questions. ^{s9(2)(g)}
(ii)

Talking points:

- We have been advised that the Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel will be transiting Auckland in late October, on her way to the Pacific.
- No meetings have been scheduled with New Zealand Ministers or officials.
- Questions on the Deputy Minister's travel plans should be directed to the Israeli Embassy.

If asked talking points:

- *Why isn't she being denied a visa?*
 - o She is not one of the two Israeli Ministers banned from travel to New Zealand.
- *Why are you not meeting her at Ministerial level?*
 - o She is transiting and we have not been approached to make this an official visit to New Zealand. Moreover, the Deputy Minister does not have a counterpart in New Zealand.
- *Will officials meet her?*
 - o No meetings with officials have been scheduled.
- *What is the time and date she will be visiting?*
 - o Questions on the Deputy Minister's travel plans should be directed to the Israeli Embassy.

Background:

Israeli Deputy MFA Sharren Haskel will transit Auckland **from 1.40pm-9.10pm on Thursday 23 October**. She is travelling on an official visit to a number of Pacific Island Countries. We understand she will be meeting with the Jewish and Israeli community in Auckland during her transit.

RESTRICTED

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 14 August 2025 11:37 am
s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Oral Questions Thursday 14 August [SEC=RESTRICTED]

[RESTRICTED]
RESTRICTED

Sharren Haskel (author of the tweet) is a Junior Minister, appointed by FM Sa'ar^{s6(a)}

Out of scope

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2025 11:54 am

To: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: WQ - 1 question(s) released to Minister

Hi ESD,

Could we please have a response to the below by Oct 21?

Best,
s9(
2)



s9(2)(g)(ii)

iv

| Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters
for Racing | Minister for Rail

M:s9(2)(a)

[Restricted]

From: Written Questions Notification Service <writtenquestions@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 15 October 2025 11:24 am

To: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: WQ - 1 question(s) released to Minister

Reply 50065 (2025) has been released

Member: Tuiono, Teanau

Portfolio: Foreign Affairs (Rt Hon Peters)

Due: 23 Oct 2025

Question: Does the Minister expect Israel's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sharren Haskel, to visit New Zealand, and if so, when?

[50065 \(2025\)](#)

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