



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

17 June 2025

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OIA 30138

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Thank you for your email of 19 May 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"While I can find information about the national interest test criteria related to overseas investment, I am wanting the criteria for the national interest test that would be used to assess the pandemic treaty and International Health Regulations (IHR) amendments.

Please also supply any updated information on New Zealand's position regarding the pandemic treaty and IHR revisions. For example, the most recent negotiating mandate (i.e. post 2024)."

On 16 June 2025, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 15 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

The first part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA because the information is publicly available. On 19 February 2024, Cabinet noted that any decision to be bound by the International Health Regulation amendments or pandemic treaty would be subject to the full treaty making process including Cabinet approval, a National Interest Analysis and Parliamentary Treaty Examination.

The Cabinet documentation was publicly released and can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/negotiating-mandate-for-the-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-2005-and-the-pandemic-treaty .

The criteria for the National Interest Analysis is available in Standing Order 406, and in the Cabinet Manual 7.130 – 7.131:

- www.parliament.nz/en/pb/parliamentary-rules/standing-orders-2020-by-chapter/chapter-7-non-legislative-procedures/
- www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/supporting-work-cabinet/cabinet-manual

An update on the International Health Regulations is available on the Ministry of Health's website: www.health.govt.nz/strategies-initiatives/programmes-and-initiatives/emergency-management/pandemics/strengthening-global-pandemic-

[prevention-preparedness-and-response/amending-the-international-health-regulations-2005](#)

On 16 May 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health issued a media release on the Pandemic Treaty: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-subject-pandemic-treaty-full-national-interest-test

Regarding the second part of your request, on 19 May 2025, New Zealand voted in favour of the adoption of resolution A78/10 Add.1 in Committee A of the World Health Assembly: www.who.int/news/item/19-05-2025-member-states-approve-who-pandemic-agreement-in-world-health-assembly-committee--paving-way-for-its-formal-adoption

On 20 May 2025, the plenary of the World Health Assembly adopted the text of the Pandemic Treaty (WHA78.1) by consensus.

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', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade