

26 February 2026

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Release

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OIA 30637

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for your OIA request of 13 January 2026 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"This is an OIA request for the following (5 year timeframe):

- 1. costs of maintaining an embassy in Iran;*
- 2. number of meetings between MFAT staff and Iranian officials; and*
- 3. any advice MFAT has given regarding designating IRGC, Hamas, or Hezbollah."*

Your request has been numbered for administrative ease.

On 13 February 2026, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 10 working days because responding to your request necessitated the review of a large quantity of information (section 15A(1)(a) of the OIA refers).

Regarding part one of your request, please see below a table of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry) expenditure on New Zealand's Embassy in Tehran for the past five financial years.

NZD	2021/22 (Actual)	2022/23 (Actual)	2023/24 (Actual)	2024/25 (Actual)	2025/26 (Budget)
Iran Embassy Costs (NZD)	\$2.532M	2.288M	\$2.432M	\$2.354M	\$2.417M

Please note, differences in budgets year to year are affected by foreign exchange rates.

In response to part two of your request, New Zealand and Iran maintain diplomatic relations and, as such, Ministry staff and Iranian officials hold meetings on an occasional basis, both in Wellington and in Tehran.

The Ministry does not hold a comprehensive record of the number of meetings that have taken place over the last five years between our staff in Wellington and Iranian Embassy officials in Wellington. These happen across different teams in the Ministry at varying levels of seniority. The Ministry also does not hold a comprehensive record of the number of meetings that have taken place over the last five years between staff at the New Zealand Embassy in Tehran and Iranian Government officials in Tehran, as they

meet on a regular basis. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as no list of all interactions exists.

In response to part three of your request, the part of your request relating to advice given regarding the designation of Hamas and Hezbollah is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available on the Ministry's website here, under the heading Designation of Hamas and Hezbollah as terrorist entities:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/middle-east/israel-hamas-conflict

Regarding the part of your request relating to advice provided to Ministers on the designation of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Ministry can neither confirm nor deny the existence of the information you have requested (section 10 of the OIA refers).

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 'Owen Thornber', written over a horizontal line.

Owen Thornber
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade