

26 March 2026

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OIA 30712

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Tēnā koe Proactive Release

Thank you for your email of 11 February 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I would like a copy of any advice and communications between the Ministry and Wellington City Council on Wellington signing a Friendly City agreement with Ramallah."

Please find attached information relevant to your request. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy, and;
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

UNCLASSIFIED
[SECURITY CLASSIFICATION]

OIA 30712: "I would like a copy of any advice and communications between the Ministry and Wellington City Council on Wellington signing a Friendly City agreement with Ramallah."

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

Sent on: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 2:58:01 AM

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

Subject: RE: Wellington City Council - Seeking advice on Palestine - MFAT response

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora s9(2)(g)
(ii)

Thank you very much for your email.

To provide context and assist your consideration, we provide further information on Aotearoa New Zealand's policy position regarding the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP). Aotearoa New Zealand pursues a principles-based approach to the MEPP.

The conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians has remained fraught, highly politicised and unresolved for many years. Realising Palestinian statehood remains a particularly complex element of the conflict. Aotearoa New Zealand remains committed to supporting a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which envisions the creation of an independent State of Palestine living in peace and security alongside the State of Israel. We are keen to ensure that a solution to durable and lasting peace in the region can be achieved, and are mindful that communities around the world including in Aotearoa New Zealand also want to see this outcome.

Decisions surrounding political and legal matters of state recognition are the exclusive prerogative of the New Zealand Government under its foreign policy mandate. Statements made by local authorities surrounding recognition of other states do not constitute an act of recognition by New Zealand as local authorities do not hold those decision-making powers.

We have no comment on the Council's consideration of whether to form a Sister city relationship with Ramallah.

We wish Wellington City Council all the best in its consideration of this issue.

Ngā mihi

s9(2)(g)(ii)

[Document ID]

[SECURITY CLASSIFICATION]
UNCLASSIFIED

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Middle East and Africa Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

s9(2)(a)

E s9(2)(g)(ii)

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act