

19 March 2026

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OIA 30733

Tēnā koe ^{Personal Details removed for}
Proactive Release

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"all documents, reports, memoranda, letters, emails, including drafts, related to New Zealand government decision-making regarding support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) between January 2004 and December 2005."

On 26 February 2026 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) contacted you to discuss the scope of your request, because as it was originally framed it captured a significant volume of information. On the same day, you agreed to refine the scope of your request to be for:

"The decision making documents related to support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) between January 2024 and December 2025."

Three documents are identified as within scope of your request.

1. Submission: UNRWA 2023/23 Core Contribution, 28 May 2024
2. Submission: New Zealand's funding support for UNRWA, 15 December 2025
3. Submission: New Zealand's approach to Middle East Related resolutions in the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly vote on UNRWA's mandate, 11 November 2025

Document one is publicly available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry's) website. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available here:

<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2025/Proactive-Release-Further-information-on-funding-UNRWA-May-2025-release.pdf>

Document two is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and, under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.

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.

Document three is currently in the process of being proactively released. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under 18(d) of the OIA, as it will soon be made publicly available by the end of April 2026 on the Israel-Hamas Conflict webpage of the Ministry's website: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/middle-east/israel-hamas-conflict>.

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