

13 March 2026

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OIA 30740

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Release

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Tēnā koe Proactive Release

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"I am seeking all information relating to the New Zealand Government's response to the murder of tens of thousands of unarmed Iranian civilians by security, military or militia forces during the nationwide protests and subsequent crackdown on 8-9 January.

Specifically, I request copies of, or access to, the following:

- 2. Any communications, correspondence, briefings, reports, or internal memoranda within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), or between MFAT and any other government agency, regarding these events.*
- 3. Any communications, correspondence, or formal or informal engagement between the New Zealand Government and representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including but not limited to letters, diplomatic notes, summons, meetings, or other forms of diplomatic contact with the Iranian Ambassador or Embassy.*
- 4. Any statements, public or private, made by the New Zealand Government, MFAT, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or any government official in response to these events.*
- 5. Any consideration, discussion, or action relating to diplomatic measures, including summoning the Iranian Ambassador, issuing protests, imposing sanctions, or coordinating with international partners.*
- 6. Any briefings provided to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, relating to these events."*

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.

To date, we have not received a response from you. Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

You can find information related to your request on the Ministry's website here:
<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/middle-east/iran>

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 would like to make a refined request for information in the future, or 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