

23 April 2026

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000  
F +64 4 472 9596

Personal details removed for proactive release

OIA 30828

Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2026 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*any MFAT documents that contain the following:*

- 1. References to both the 2019 Samoa measles outbreak AND the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic in Samoa.*
- 2. Post-2000 references to the 'Black Saturday' shooting of eight Samoans on 28 December 1929.*

You also specified the following:

*In the interests of keeping this request as low-drag on resources as possible, I'm happy for the search to be limited only to formal policy or decision documents - please exclude internal correspondence, emails, or other misc internal documentation.*

*I appreciate that MFAT almost certainly holds information on these events but for this request I am looking for material that shows these events being framed (or not) in the context of contemporary policy decisions.*

### **Response to your request**

The Ministry does not hold any policy or decision documents that contain references to the 2019 Samoa measles outbreak and the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic in Samoa, or the Black Saturday shooting of 1929.

Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you requested does not exist or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The following documents contain references to measles, influenza, and/or Black Saturday, but are not policy documents so have been ruled out of scope.

- Budget Estimate Summary: APIA, [dated 2014]
- New Zealand – Proposal for an Inquiry into New Zealand's history with Samoa [dated December 2017]

- FORMAL MESSAGE: MINISTERIAL VISIT TO SAMOA 13-14 DECEMBER: BILATERAL SOLIDARITY DURING MEASLES OUTBREAK AND BEYOND [dated December 2019]
- The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro Governor-General of New Zealand  
Visit to the United Kingdom for the Commonwealth Games 22 July – 2 August 2022
- Visit by Governor-General HE Dame Cindy Kiro to Samoa 4 – 8 September 2022  
Delegation Briefing
- SPEAKER'S DELEGATION RT. HON. ADRIAN RURAWHE SAMOA 10-13 July 2023

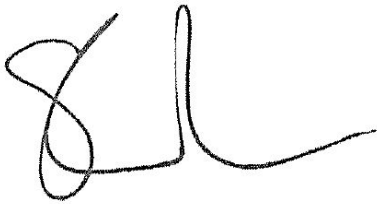
Should these documents be of interest to you, please submit another OIA request.

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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://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