

17 June 2026

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Personal details removed for proactive release

OIA 30926

Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

any communications with relation to Everlee Wihongi's incarceration with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement made between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the United States of America.

On 5 June 2026, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 20 working days because responding to your request necessitated the review of a large quantity of information, and due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(a) and (b) of the OIA refers).

Response to your request

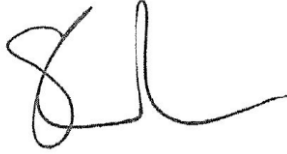
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry) communications with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency in relation to Everlee Wihongi's case are withheld in full under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA given they contain personal information.

In considering this response, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reason 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's 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 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade