

29 July 2026

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OIA 31017

Personal details removed for proactive
release.

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

"Since 23 November 2023:

1. *How many working groups, advisory groups, reference groups, expert panels, stakeholder groups, or similar bodies administered by your agency have required participants to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), confidentiality agreement, or confidentiality undertaking as a condition of participation?*
2. *Please provide the figure for each of:*
 - *23 November 2023 to 31 December 2023*
 - *2024*
 - *2025*
 - *2026 to date*
3. *Please provide any current policy, guidance, or criteria governing when such agreements may be required."*

On 16 June 2026, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 10 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Response to your request

In response to parts one and two of your request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) does not maintain a central register of working groups, advisory groups, reference groups, expert panels, stakeholder groups, or similar bodies that require participants to sign a non-disclosure agreement, confidentiality agreement, or confidentiality undertaking. To provide a complete response would require substantial collation and research from across the Ministry. Accordingly, parts one and two of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.

Regarding part three of your request, we have not identified any Ministry-wide policy, guidance, or criteria governing when non-disclosure agreements, confidentiality agreements, or confidentiality undertakings may be required. Decisions are generally made by individual business units based on the nature of the information being shared and the purpose of the engagement. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

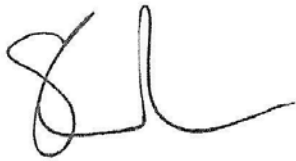
Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade