

7 September 2026

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OIA 31073

Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I'm a reporter for Stuff and am requesting under the Official Information Act, the full invite list from the embassy/consulate for all three of New Zealand games at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Can MFAT please disclose if the embassy/consulate received free tickets/box from FIFA, and any costs contributed towards tickets/corporate box.

On 10 August 2026, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 20 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Background

In relation to New Zealand's participation at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) worked alongside other New Zealand Government agencies, including New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), Invest New Zealand (Invest NZ), and Sport New Zealand (Sport NZ), as part of a coordinated New Zealand Inc (NZ Inc) approach. These agencies held separate ticket allocations and managed their own invitee lists for the games. MFAT consulted with those agencies in preparing this response. To the extent that further information is held by another agency, we recommend that requests for that information be directed to the relevant agency.

Response to your request

Invite List

Invitation lists for the three New Zealand games are set out in the tables below. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(d): to protect the economic interests of New Zealand; and
- 9(2)(b)(ii): to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party.

New Zealand v Iran (Los Angeles, 16 June 2026)			
MFAT Invitee List (29 tickets)	Invest NZ Invitee List (20 tickets)	NZTE Invitee List (18 tickets)	Sport NZ Invitees (5 tickets)
Hannah Owenson (MFAT Staff - Deputy Consul-General; Consulate-General working host)	Anthony Mosse (Investment Director, NAM (North America))	Rip Takhar (NZTE; Trade Commissioner in Los Angeles)	Nicki Nicol (Chief Executive Officer & Secretary General, NZOC)
Christine Langdon (MFAT Contractor - FIFA Project Manager; NZ Inc working host - logistics management)	Laura Allen (<i>Investment Migrant Manager</i>)	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]	Mark Arbib (Chief Executive, Australian Olympic Committee)
Emma Newton (MFAT Staff - Policy Adviser; Consulate-General working host)	Michael Loginoff (<i>Investment Manager, NAM</i>)	Denis O'Shea (Mobile Mentor)	[Name withheld under s(9)(2)(a)]
Michael O'Donnell (NZTE Regional Director North America, hosting, stakeholder engagement & logistics management-	Paul Ust (<i>Investment Migrant Manager</i>)	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]	Don Tricker (Vice- President, Player Health and Performance, San Diego Padres; High Performance Director, NZ Rugby)
Benjamin Evers- Swindell (Air NZ - General Manager, Americas; US-based New Zealand business - Senior representative)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	Phil Goodin (Autex Acoustics)	Peter Miskimmin (Head of Sport Diplomacy, NZ Government)
Christian Thomas (Senior Public Diplomacy Manager, Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Colorado; State level trade and investment stakeholder (Colorado))	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	Jade Woods (Autex Acoustics)	
Dee Dee Meyers (California GO-BIZ Director; Los Angeles business and	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	Alia Goodin (Autex Acoustics)	

<i>New Zealand v Iran (Los Angeles, 16 June 2026)</i>			
MFAT Invitee List (29 tickets)	Invest NZ Invitee List (20 tickets)	NZTE Invitee List (18 tickets)	Sport NZ Invitees (5 tickets)
economic development senior representative)			
Derek Shearer (Former US Ambassador to Finland and Occidental College Professor; Key diplomatic stakeholder) (+1 guest)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]	
Dilpreet Sidu (Deputy Mayor (International), Los Angeles City; Los Angeles City Government senior representative /Key LA28 stakeholder)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]	
Frank Klein (COO Rocket Lab; US-based New Zealand business - Senior representative). Invited but unable to attend on the day.	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	Rachael Everitt (Invivo)	
Jonathan Freedman (President CEO of Utah World Trade Centre; Utah State level trade and investment stakeholder)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]	
Josh Newman (Former California State Senator; Key political stakeholder)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]	
Kal Raustila (Director, UCLA Ronald W. Burkle Center for International Relations; Key international relations stakeholder)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(a)]	

<i>New Zealand v Iran (Los Angeles, 16 June 2026)</i>			
MFAT Invitee List (29 tickets)	Invest NZ Invitee List (20 tickets)	NZTE Invitee List (18 tickets)	Sport NZ Invitees (5 tickets)
[Name withheld s6(a)] (+1 guest)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(a)]	
[Name withheld s6(a)]	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(a)]	
Mona Recalde (Tonga Tribal representatives; Los Angeles native tribal representative)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(a)]	
[Name withheld s6(a)]	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Active Investor Plus	[Name withheld s 9(2)(a)]	
Roxanne Hoge (Chair of LA Republican Party; Key political stakeholder)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Managed funds/institutional investors	[Name withheld s 9(2)(a)]	
Sela Tukia (Consul- General Tonga; Key diplomatic stakeholder)	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Managed funds/institutional investors		
Simon Taylor (Senior Director, Human Resources, Blizzard Entertainment; US- based New Zealander	[Name withheld under 9(2)(a) and s9(2)(d)] Managed funds/institutional investors		
Stephen Cheung (CEO of LAEDC and Chair of LA World Trade Centre Los Angeles business and economic development - Senior representative)			
Tony Recalde (Tongva Tribal representatives; Los Angeles native tribal representative)			

<i>New Zealand v Iran (Los Angeles, 16 June 2026)</i>			
MFAT Invitee List (29 tickets)	Invest NZ Invitee List (20 tickets)	NZTE Invitee List (18 tickets)	Sport NZ Invitees (5 tickets)
[Name withheld s6(a)]			
[Name withheld s6(a)]			
[Name withheld s6(a)] (+1 guest)			
[Name withheld s6(a)]			

<i>New Zealand v Egypt (Vancouver, 21 June 2026)</i>	
MFAT Invitee List (4 tickets)	NZTE Invitee List (9 tickets)
Mark Podasly (CEO First Nations Major Project Coalition) (+1 guest)	Fraser Robertson (Director; RCP)
Terry Teegee (Regional Chief British Columbia Assembly of First Nations) (+1 guest)	Kim Adams (Senior Account Executive; Seequent)
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]
	Jono Lockwood (Co-Founder & Director, Customer Success; Timescapes)
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]
	Bevan Judge (Principal – Canada; RCP)
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]

<i>New Zealand v Belgium (Vancouver, 26 June 2026)</i>	
MFAT Invitee List (4 tickets)	NZTE Invitee List (9 tickets)
Steve Snyder (Honorary Consul Calgary) (+1 guest)	Sasja Smit (NZTE; Business Development Manager)
Jeremy West (CANZBA Board Member)	Rod Hallam (Market Manager Canada; Indevin)
Adam Lorant (NZTE Beachhead Advisor)	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]
	Tim Instone (COO; No Issue)
	Josh Bowden (CEO; No Issue)
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]
	Cris Esteves (Gallagher Security)
	[Name withheld s 9(2)(b)(ii)]

If the embassy/consulate received free tickets/box from FIFA

We have interpreted this question as broader than the three New Zealand games and so collected information for any of the 2026 FIFA World Cup games.

Free Tickets from FIFA

Complementary tickets provided by FIFA to official representatives of participating countries		
Game	# tickets	Agency
New Zealand v Iran (Los Angeles)	4	MFAT
New Zealand v Egypt (Vancouver)	2	NZTE
	2	MFAT
New Zealand v Belgium (Vancouver)	2	NZTE
	2	MFAT
FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony (Mexico City)	2	MFAT

Any costs contributed towards tickets/corporate box

No corporate box tickets were purchased by any of the NZ Inc Agencies, NZTE, Invest NZ, Sports NZ or MFAT. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

Purchased tickets

Tickets to All Whites games purchased by NZ Inc Agencies (NZD)					
Game	Number of tickets	Agency	Cost per ticket	Personal/Customer contribution	Total net cost
New Zealand v Iran (Los Angeles)	32	MFAT	\$776.06	\$3,104.24	\$21,729.68
	20	Invest NZ	\$776.06	Nil	\$15 521.20
	18	NZTE	\$776.06	\$13 193.02	\$776.06
	5	Sport NZ	\$776.06	Nil	\$3,880.30
New Zealand v Egypt (Vancouver)	4	MFAT	\$776.06	Nil	\$3,104.24
	9	NZTE	\$776.06	\$3,141.82	\$3,842.72
New Zealand v Belgium (Vancouver)	9	NZTE	\$862.29	\$2,759.33	\$5,001.28
	4	MFAT	\$862.49	Nil	\$3,449.16

NZTE assesses global sporting events to consider leveraging opportunities to support New Zealand exporters to achieve their commercial objectives. This can include facilitating engagement where exporters identify clear value in advancing commercial relationships, deepening priority connections, and pursuing growth opportunities. In relation to the FIFA World Cup, NZTE undertook business leveraging activities to enable exporters to host key commercial partners and engage with senior stakeholders. A cost-recovery approach was applied for tickets, as set out in the customer contribution column above.

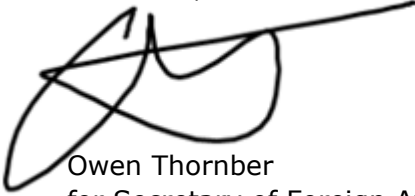
Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

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, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Owen Thornber
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade