

10 August 2026

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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):

A: Questions related to 2025 Government Department Strategies Index Handbook – He Puna Rautaki as at 31 December 2025 (the Handbook)

The Handbook contains a profile page for each department as well as summary information on the department's active strategies.

Question 1: *Please confirm whether the factual information contained in your department's profile page and strategy pages (pp.160–163) in the Handbook and GDS number where appropriate. Note: Please ignore the right-hand column on strategy pages, which contains some of the Institute's analysis from the 2024 GDS Index.*

Question 2: *Please provide the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed by your department in each of the following locations as at 30 June 2026 (or the latest available information, in which case please provide the date):*

- Auckland FTEs
- Wellington FTEs
- Christchurch FTEs
- Regional North Island (excluding Auckland and Wellington) FTEs
- Regional South Island (excluding Christchurch) FTEs
- Overseas FTEs

B: Questions related to Working Paper 2026/01 – Methodology [177] (the Methodology)

This paper explains how the Institute assessed and categorised each GDS. It also contains a complete list of GDSs in operation as at 31 December 2025. Table 9.1 (pp. 95–119) is designed to show changes in strategy status by department between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025.

Question 3: *Please confirm whether the GDSs listed for your department in Table 9.1 (pp.95–119) are in operation as at 31 December 2025, and whether the data,*

including the title, is correct. If not, please identify any corrections that should be made, including the GDS number and page number in the Methodology.

C: Questions related to Working Paper 2026/02 – List of GDSs Archived or Transferred by Departments between the 2024 GDS Index and 2025 GDS Index [57] (the Archived or Transferred).

This paper contains strategies that were included in the 2024 GDS Index but were archived or transferred during 2025.

Question 4: *Please confirm whether the archived or transferred strategy documents have been treated correctly (pp.52–56). If not, please identify any corrections that should be made, including the GDS number and page number in the Archived or Transferred.*

D: Questions related to Working Paper 2026/03 – List of Documents Rejected [13]

This paper contains documents that were assessed by the Institute but were not included in the 2025 GDS Index because they did not meet the Institute's definition of a GDS.

Question 5: *Please confirm whether the reason why we have rejected your suggested document makes sense (p.34). We would rather departments share all potential documents for inclusion in the Index, so we fully appreciate your department putting these forward. Most of the GDSs were rejected because they were internal-facing documents or corporate documents (see our definition in the Working Paper 2026/01 – Methodology glossary, p.28). Please let us know if you would like to discuss this further.*

Response to your request

A response to each part of your request is set out below.

Question one

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Minisry) would be grateful if the purpose statement on the profile page can be updated with the following information:

- Purpose: 'The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade/Manatū Aorere acts in the world to build a safer, more prosperous, and more sustainable future for New Zealanders. As the Government's principal agent for pursuing New Zealand's international interests and representing our country offshore, it provides advice on foreign policy, trade, development cooperation, and international legal issues; represents New Zealand overseas through its diplomatic network of 58 posts in 50 countries; and supports the Government's international priorities. The Ministry delivers New Zealand's International Development Cooperation Programme, provides consular services to New Zealanders overseas, and coordinates responses to global emergencies. It contributes to peace, security, and stability, particularly in the Pacific and Indo-Pacific regions. The Ministry also works to secure and defend access to overseas markets, remove or reduce barriers to trade and investment, and help exporters. It protects Antarctica, promotes sustainable resource management, and works with Pacific partners to strengthen climate resilience.'

Please also update figures on the profile page with the following information:

- Update the number of Acts administered from 30 to 32;
- Update the number of FTEs from 1,194 to 1,814. The updated figure is as at 30 June 2026 and includes total FTE staff employed by the Ministry.

Please note that the figure for contractor and consultant expenditure has not been updated to 30 June 2026 as the figure is still subject to audit. The audited figure will be available when the Ministry's 2025-26 Annual Report is published on 21 October 2026.

With regards to the three strategies, please update the publication date for the *Disarmament and Arms Control Strategy* from NK (approx. 2023) to April 2024.

All other information is correct.

Question two

The number of FTE staff employed by the Ministry as at 30 June 2026 is set out in the following table:

Location	FTEs	
	NZ based staff & seconded NZ staff	Staff Employed at Post
Wellington	937.34	-
Auckland	10.8	-
Overseas	257	609
Total	1,814.14	

Question three

Please update the publication date for the *Disarmament and Arms Control Strategy* to April 2024. All other information is correct.

Question four

This information is correct.

Question five

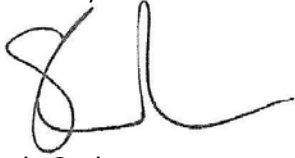
This is not applicable as there are nil entries.

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 large loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a small upward flick.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade