

7 August 2026

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Personal details removed for proactive release

OIA 31081

Thank you for your email of 16 July 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Background: *The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) established a Sanctions Unit in early 2024 to dedicate to NZ's Russian Sanctions Act and United Nations sanctions.*

Specifics of Request: *Prior to the establishment of the 2024 Sanctions Unit, please confirm how MFAT ensured New Zealand businesses complied with United Nations Sanctions?*

Other than through relevant legislative instruments, how did MFAT ensure dissemination of UN Sanctions knowledge and compliance with UN Sanctions across NZ businesses.

Response to your request

Before the New Zealand Sanctions Unit was formally established on 3 May 2023, sanctions issues were led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (the Ministry) General International Law Unit. They ensured that United Nations sanctions were appropriately implemented under New Zealand law and they managed communications around these sanctions, for example via the Ministry's website and responding to enquiries.

The effective implementation of sanctions in New Zealand has and remains an inter-agency effort and the Ministry works closely with a range of other government agencies and departments to that end.

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', written on a light background.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade