

1 September 2026

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OIA 31147

Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 8 August 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Please advise whether the New Zealand Government has, since 1 January 2024, formally asked the United States Government for:

- New Zealand to receive an exemption or other treatment comparable to ITAR §126.7 as it applies to Australia and the United Kingdom; or*
- other streamlined US defence export-control arrangements for New Zealand.*

If yes, please provide the date on which each request was made, its current status, and the titles and dates of any substantive briefings to Ministers concerning the request.

Response to your request

In response to your request, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) can confirm that the New Zealand Government has not made a formal request of the United States Government for New Zealand to receive an exemption or other treatment comparable to ITAR §126.7 as it applies to Australia and the United Kingdom; or other streamlined US defence export-control arrangements. The Ministry can confirm that, over the time period specified in your request, officials and Ministers have engaged regularly with US counterparts on facilitation of bilateral trade in defence, aerospace and other sensitive items, including to identify pathways to minimise US regulatory burden faced by New Zealand companies. Officials have recently initiated outreach to industry to solicit information on their experience of US regulatory systems to inform future policy development and advocacy.

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, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Owen Thornber
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade