

25 September 2026

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Personal details removed for proactive release

OIA 31156

Thank you for your email of 12 August 2026, transferred from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 14 August 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

A copy of cabinet approval for the Full Powers signed by then Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Honourable Phillip Goff and dated 23 March 2000

Background

On 12 August 2026, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) provided you with the Instrument of Full Powers signed by then Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Honourable Phillip Goff and dated 23 March 2000. The Instrument of Full Powers provided Simon Murdoch, New Zealand's High Commissioner to Australia at the time, authority to sign the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand on Child and Spousal Maintenance*.

Response to your request

Under the Cabinet Manual, Cabinet approval is not required for the Minister of Foreign Affairs to sign an Instrument of Full Powers delegating another individual to sign a treaty on behalf of New Zealand.

Accordingly, we are refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

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 in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade