

20 October 2026

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OIA 31243

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proactive release

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Thank you for your email of 22 September 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1. Correspondence, submissions, advice and reports exchanged between the Standing Orders Committee of Parliament, including any individual members of the committee, and your Ministry regarding the Standing Orders Committee's review of the international treaty making process in this parliamentary term;*
- 2. Correspondence, submissions, advice and reports provided by your Ministry to the Clerk of the House of Parliament regarding a review of the international treaty making process during this parliamentary term;*
- 3. Correspondence, submissions, advice and reports exchanged between the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee of Parliament, including any individual members of the committee, regarding the review of the international treaty making process since January 2025.*

Response to your request

The documents in scope of parts one and two of your request are listed below.

#	Title	Date	Decision
1.	Email chain: Review of Standing Orders 2026 - Letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade	28 to 29 May 2026	9(2)(a)
2.	Email chain: letter from Speaker of the House (including attachment	29 May 2026	9(2)(a)
3.	Email chain MFAT response to letter from Speaker of the House: Standing Orders Review and International Treaties (including three annexes) 1. Improving NZ's resilience to trade Shocks: Analysing business risks in	19 June 2026	9(2)(a)

#	Title	Date	Decision
	the face of market disruption 2. Trade for All Advisory Board Recommendations: Report on Progress 3. Request for Written Submission: Response to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee on the International Treaty Making Process		

Annex one, Improving NZ's resilience to trade shocks: Analysing business risks in the face of market disruption is publicly available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) website at: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-General/Trade-stats-and-economic-research/Improving-New-Zealand-resilience-to-trade-shocks.pdf>.

Annex two, Trade for All Advisory Board Recommendations: Report on Progress is publicly available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) website at: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/PR-2021-0084-Trade-for-All-Advisory-Board-Recommendations_Redacted.pdf.

Annex three, Request for Written Submission: Response to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee on the International Treaty Making Process is publicly available on the Parliament website at: https://www3.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCFADT_EVI_cb2aeaa0-aff-4221-f9be-08dbff71d8ff_FADT470/072fe1a1dfbe07b9d5889867e79b27b3b8726aed.

Accordingly, these parts of the documents in scope are refused under section 18(d) as they are publicly available.

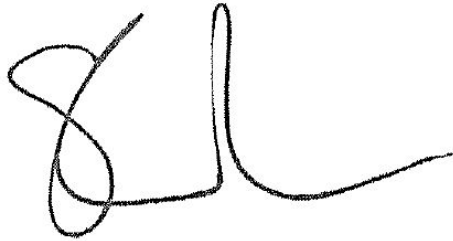
The remainder to the information in scope of your request is attached. Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect individuals' privacy. Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Part three of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as there has been no *correspondence, submissions, advice and reports exchanged between the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Committee of Parliament, including any individual members of the committee, regarding the review of the international treaty making process since January 2025*, therefore the information requested does not exist.

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 vertical stroke and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

From: [RUA, Carlie \(LGL\)](#)
To: [Standing Orders Committee](#)
Cc: [CORBETT, Sarah \(ESD\)](#); [ROUGHTON, Luke \(LGL\)](#); [NAM, Christine \(LGL\)](#)
Subject: RE: Review of Standing Orders 2026 - Letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 29 May 2026 9:26:40 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you for your patience! May you please send the letter addressed to MFAT's Secretary, Bede Corry, to myself. I will transact it directly with Bede's team.

Looking forward to receiving.

Best,

Carlie

Ms9(2)(a) [E carlie.rua@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:carlie.rua@mfat.govt.nz)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: RUA, Carlie (LGL)
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2026 7:20 pm
To: 'Standing Orders Committee'
Subject: RE: Review of Standing Orders 2026 - Letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Kia ora ^{s9(2)(a)}(or team!),
Thank you for the heads up! I am hoping I will have a response from our CE's team for you tomorrow.
Have a great evening and lovely long weekend.
Best,
Carlie
Ms9(2)(a) [E carlie.rua@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:carlie.rua@mfat.govt.nz)

From: ^{s9(2)(a)} [@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz) > **On Behalf Of** Standing Orders Committee
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2026 5:39 pm
To: RUA, Carlie (LGL) <Carlie.Rua@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: Standing Orders Committee <Standing.Orders@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Review of Standing Orders 2026 - Letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

You don't often get email from standing.orders@parliament.govt.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

Kia ora Carlie,

This email is just to let you know that I will be on annual leave tomorrow, but my colleagues will monitor the inbox for any response from you.

We appreciate you assisting us. Have a lovely evening.

Ngā mihi nui,

^{s9(2)(a)}

s9(2)(a) (she/her)

Clerk of Committee | Manahautū o te Komiti

Standing Orders Committee | Komiti Whiriwhiri Whakataunga Tū Roa

Health Committee | Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Hauora

Select Committee Services



Parliament Buildings | Private Bag 18041 | Wellington 6160

ps9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a) **On Behalf Of** Standing Orders Committee

Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2026 11:49 AM

To: 'RUA, Carlie (LGL)' <Carlie.Rua@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: Standing Orders Committee <Standing.Orders@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Review of Standing Orders 2026 - Letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora Carlie,

Thank you for your prompt response.

The Standing Orders Committee is undertaking the [Review of Standing Orders 2026](#), its three-yearly review of the rules and practice of the House. As part of the review, the committee is considering whether improvements could be made to the House's oversight of treaty-making and examination of international treaties. The committee's correspondence is related to its work on the latter.

I appreciate your help!

Ngā mihi nui,

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a) (she/her)

Clerk of Committee | Manahautū o te Komiti

Standing Orders Committee | Komiti Whiriwhiri Whakataunga Tū Roa

Health Committee | Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Hauora

Select Committee Services



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ps9(2)(a)

From: RUA, Carlie (LGL) <Carlie.Rua@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2026 11:14 AM

To: Standing Orders Committee <Standing.Orders@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Review of Standing Orders 2026 - Letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Lovely to connect and happy to help! I have reached out to our CE's office on this matter. Is there any chance you may provide some detail on what the letter entails?

Best,

Carlie

Ms9(2)(a) E carlie.rua@mfat.govt.nz

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s9(2)(a) [@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz) **On Behalf Of** Standing Orders Committee

Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2026 9:42 am

To: RUA, Carlie (LGL) <Carlie.Rua@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: Standing Orders Committee <Standing.Orders@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: Review of Standing Orders 2026 - Letter to Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Tēnā koe Carlie,

My name is s9(2)(a) and I am the clerk of the Standing Orders Committee at Parliament. I have been passed on your contact by the clerk of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, as she has advised you may be able to assist with the below.

I am looking for the best way to send a letter to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as the Standing Orders Committee has written to the Secretary as part of its work on the Review of Standing Orders 2026. Is this something you could help me with or point me in the right direction?

Thank you in advance for any assistance.

Ngā mihi,
s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a) (she/her)

Clerk of Committee | Manahautū o te Komiti

Standing Orders Committee | Komiti Whiriwhiri Whakataunga Tū Roa

Health Committee | Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Hauora

Select Committee Services



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Ps9(2)(a)

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From: s9(2)(a)
To: [RUA, Carlie \(LGL\)](#)
Cc: s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: letter from Speaker of the House [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 29 May 2026 4:57:04 pm

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Thanks Carlie enjoy the long weekend!

s9(2)(a)

Executive Officer

Office of The Clerk of the House, Dr David Wilson; and

The Chief Executive, Parliamentary Service, Rafael Gonzalez-Montero

DDIS9(2)(a) M s9(2)(a)

Es9(2)(a) y@parliament.govt.nz

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From: RUA, Carlie (LGL)

Sent: Friday, 29 May 2026 4:38 pm

To: s9(2)(a)

Cc: s9(2)(a) ; ESD

Subject: RE: letter from Speaker of the House [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Thank you very much for sending this through, confirming receipt. I will send this through to my CE's office for transaction through to Bede.

Best,

Carlie

M +s9(2)(a) E carlie.rua@mfat.govt.nz

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Friday, 29 May 2026 2:58 pm

To: RUA, Carlie (LGL)

Cc: s9(2)(a)

Subject: letter from Speaker of the House

You don't often get email from andie.lindsay@parliament.govt.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Carlie, please find attached a letter from Mr Speaker for the Secretary.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

Executive Officer

Office of The Clerk of the House, Dr David Wilson; and

The Chief Executive, Parliamentary Service, Rafael Gonzalez-Montero

DDIs9(2)(a) Ms9(2)(a)

Es9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

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**STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE
KOMITI WHIRIWHIRI WHAKATAUNGA TŪ ROA**

28 May 2026

Bede Corry
Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Corry

Review of Standing Orders 2026—international treaties

The Standing Orders Committee currently is undertaking the Review of Standing Orders 2026. During the review, the committee considers how to improve the House's rules and practice, with a view to recommending amendments to the Standing Orders for the next term of Parliament.

As part of the review, the committee is looking at the theme of international treaties. The committee is aware of the Ministry's view, as expressed to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, that the current procedure is fit for purpose. We note and broadly agree with the finding of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee that the current procedure appropriately balances the roles of the Government and Parliament in relation to New Zealand's international relations. We also agree with that committee's finding that there may be opportunities for improving the international treaty examination procedure, and thus we are considering what improvements may be made.

The Standing Orders Committee understands that there has previously been work done by the Ministry and other agencies, and by advisory groups, that is relevant to the international treaty-making process and how treaties are scrutinised by the House. This previous work may assist our consideration.

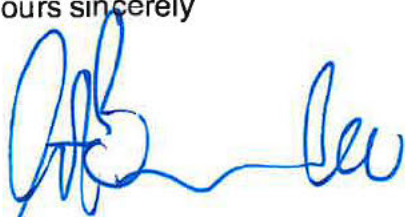
The Standing Orders Committee therefore requests the following information from the Ministry:

1. Report of the ministerial advisory group appointed by the previous Minister for Trade and Export Growth to advise on the implementation of the recommendations of the Trade for All Advisory Board.
2. Any information that the Ministry can provide regarding the implementation of recommendations from the board or the ministerial advisory group.
3. Any information that the Ministry can provide about other work, reviews or analysis relating to improvements or changes to processes for international treaties.

For your information, the committee is writing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, inviting him to set out for the committee any options for improving the House's consideration of international treaties. We are also seeking feedback from the Minister about the possible updating or amending of the House's requirements for matters to be addressed by national interest analyses.

Please could the Ministry's response be provided by Friday, 19 June 2026 to Maggie Donovan, Clerk of the Committee (Standing.Orders@parliament.govt.nz). Note that the Ministry's response to the committee's request will become publicly available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Brownlee', is written over a faint, diagonal watermark that reads 'Released under the Official Information Act'.

Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee
Chairperson
Standing Orders Committee

From: [CORBETT, Sarah \(ESD\)](#)
To: Standing.Orders@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: [RUA, Carlie \(LGL\)](#); [NAM, Christine \(LGL\)](#); [DOBSON, Tredene \(OCE\)](#); [ESD](#); [OCE](#)
Subject: MFAT response to letter from Speaker of the House: Standing Orders Review and International Treaties [mfat-external] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 19 June 2026 12:10:40 pm
Attachments: [MFAT response to Standing Orders Committee - Standing Orders Review 2026 - 19 June 2026.pdf](#)
[Annex 1 - Report of MSAGOT - Improving-New-Zealand-resilience-to-trade-shocks.pdf](#)
[Annex 2 - PR-2021-0084-Trade-for-All-Advisory-Board-Recommendations_Redacted - July 2021.pdf](#)
[Annex 3 - Briefing to FADTC on New Zealand's treaty making process.pdf](#)
[2026_05_28 SOC letter to MFAT.pdf](#)

[UNCLASSIFIED]

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s9(2)(a)

Kia ora s9(2)(a)

Please find attached MFAT's response to the letter addressed to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bede Corry, concerning the Standing Orders Review and international treaties.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require anything further.

Ngā mihi,

Sarah

Sarah Corbett

Divisional Manager

Executive Services Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

E sarah.corbett@mfat.govt.nz

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From: s9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 29 May 2026 2:58 pm

To: RUA, Carlie (LGL) <Carlie.Rua@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: s9(2)(a)

@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: letter from Speaker of the House

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Hello Carlie, please find attached a letter from Mr Speaker for the Secretary.

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

Executive Officer

Office of The Clerk of the House, Dr David Wilson; and

The Chief Executive, Parliamentary Service, Rafael Gonzalez-Montero

DDIs9(2)(a) Ms9(2)(a)

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NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



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19 June 2026

Rt Hon Gerry Brownlee
Chairperson
Standing Orders Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Mr Speaker

Response to letter regarding the Standing Orders Committee's Review of Standing Orders 2026 – international treaties

Thank you for your letter dated 28 May 2026 about the Standing Orders Committee's Review of Standing Orders 2026.

My reply addresses the issues you have raised about the work of the Trade for All Ministerial Advisory Group, and about possible changes to New Zealand's treaty making practices.

The work of the Trade for All Ministerial Advisory Group

In 2018, the then Government established an independent Trade for All Advisory Board as part of the Trade for All Agenda, aimed at building public consensus around New Zealand's trade policy objectives to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic development for the benefit of all New Zealanders. The Trade for All Advisory Board represented the various views and interests that New Zealanders have regarding trade. In November 2019, the Trade for All Advisory Board presented its recommendations to the Government.

The Trade for All Ministerial Advisory Group was established in August 2021. It was intended to enable the then Minister for Trade and Export Growth to engage with representatives from business, Māori and civil society on trade policy issues.

The Group also intended to engage on developments across the trade agenda, including progress in implementing the Trade for All Advisory Board's recommendations. The Group ultimately did not provide a report to the Government on the implementation of the Board's recommendations.

In October 2022, the Trade for All Ministerial Advisory Group was re-named the Ministerial Strategic Advisory Group on Trade. It received an updated mandate to focus on a series of strategic trade policy issues and to periodically meet with the Minister.

In June 2023, the Group produced a report on 'Improving NZ's resilience to trade shocks'. A copy of the report is **enclosed** at **Annex 1**. The tenure of the Group ended on 31 December 2023.

Please find **enclosed** at **Annex 2** the report to Cabinet on the implementation of the Trade for All Advisory Board recommendations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's work on international treaty making

The Trade for All Advisory Board made a range of recommendations about New Zealand's treaty making practices. In March 2021, the Cabinet directed the Ministry to report back to relevant Ministers on our treaty making processes by the end of March 2022.

In June 2022, officials provided advice to Ministers on a package of options relating to the treaty making process. Officials were then directed to prepare a draft Cabinet paper canvassing various possible changes, including some that responded to the recommendations of the Trade for All Advisory Board.

The draft Cabinet paper set out options in order to provide greater visibility of how New Zealand concludes international treaties, including facilitating more extensive engagement with Māori.

The draft paper proposed a staged process for the potential changes. There would first be a number of adjustments reflecting the Trade for All Advisory Board's recommendations. There would then be further changes that would align with Parliamentary processes, such as the Standing Orders Review.

The draft Cabinet paper did not address fundamental issues relating to the role of the Executive in negotiating and concluding treaties. Such issues were beyond the scope of what the paper sought to achieve at that time.

The draft Cabinet paper was provided to the former Minister of Foreign Affairs. It did not go to Cabinet for consideration before the change of government in October 2023.

Engagement with Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee

In 2024, the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (FADTC) asked the Ministry to provide a written briefing describing New Zealand's treaty making process. A copy of the paper is **enclosed** as **Annex 3**.

Ministry officials appeared before FADTC in May 2024 to discuss the paper. Officials indicated that the treaty making process is robust, contains opportunities for scrutiny, and is essentially fit for purpose.

The Ministry did not provide FADTC with advice on options for changes to the treaty making process. That reflects the fact that treaty making is the prerogative of the Executive, and that such options would first need to be agreed by Ministers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bede Corry".

Bede Corry
Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

(Encl.3)

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