



New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Albains and Trade Maeath Assure

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Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your email of 25 September 2019 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"The information I am interested in is what informs NZ on which countries to locate NZ Embassies and missions. I have found information on your website regarding guidelines for foreign countries setting up Embassies within New Zealand but not on international NZ Embassies. The Embassy I am particularly interested in is Warsaw"

Decisions on opening and closing embassies or high commissions are made by the New Zealand Government of the day via a Cabinet decision, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade responsible for providing the advice to Cabinet.

The Ministry's advice is typically based on an assessment of the importance of a country to advancing New Zealand's interests. The Ministry draws on both data and contextual judgement in undertaking this assessment. The assessment may include considering the regional context and the extent to which a location can help manage accreditations to multiple countries.

The Ministry articulates New Zealand's interests via its strategic goals. These are set out in the Ministry's *Strategic Intentions 2019-2023*, which is publicly available on the Ministry's website at: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/About-us/MFAT-Strategic-Intentions-2019-2023.pdf. This includes seven policy goals which are set out in Annex 1.

For the part of your request relating to the embassy in Warsaw, I am advised that the decision to locate an embassy in Poland in 2004 was made in the context of the then recent accession to the European Union (EU) of 10 central and eastern European states. At the time, New Zealand had no embassy in any of the 10 accession states, and Poland was selected as the largest of the new central European EU members, and the sixth largest in the EU overall. Warsaw was also a geographically suitable location for cross accreditation to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which were also new EU members.

The New Zealand Ambassador in Warsaw is also now accredited to Ukraine and Georgia. Key New Zealand interests for the Warsaw Embassy to pursue include: promoting trade and economic links; maintaining New Zealand's export market access; strengthening high level government engagement; increasing cooperation in pursuit of multilateral foreign policy objectives; and, building and encouraging connections between the peoples of New Zealand and Poland and the other countries of accreditation. For more information on New Zealand's relationship with Poland please visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/europe/poland/.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details redacted) may be published on the Ministry's website.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Adams

for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Annex 1. Seven Policy Goals set out in MFAT's Strategic Intentions 2019-2023

International Rules & Institutions Strengthen, protect and use international rules and institutions to pursue New Zealand values and interests

Economic Returns & Resilience Grow sustainable economic returns and resilience from trade, investment and other international connections

Asia-Pacific Architecture Embed New Zealand as an active and integral partner in building Asia-Pacific architecture in support of regional stability and economic integration

Pacific

Promote a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific in which New Zealand's interests and influence are safeguarded

Environment & Climate Change Promote sustainable international solutions to global environment and natural resource challenges that impact on New Zealand Security & Safety Lead New Zealand's international action to advance and protect New Zealanders' safety and New Zealand's security

International Relationships Build and leverage targeted international relationships to achieve our goals