



7 November 2025



Ref: OIA-2025/26-0250

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request relating to Inter-agency communications or meeting records discussing strategies to manage social cohesion amid foreign policy decisions on Palestine

On 25 September 2025 you sent an Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on documents on CAB-25-MIN-0274 and Palestine statehood non-recognition.

On 14 October 2025 part of this request (as below) was transferred from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

"A. Social Cohesion - Inter-agency communications or meeting records discussing strategies to manage social cohesion amid foreign policy decisions on Palestine."

The other part of the request remains with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

DPMC has interpreted this request as documents it holds in relation to inter-agency communications or meeting records discussing strategies to manage social cohesion amid foreign policy decisions on Palestine.

Information being released

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld as noted. The relevant grounds under which information has been withheld are:

- section 6(a), to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons'; and
- section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	3/9/25	Email on meeting notes: 2025-09-03 Note to Chair – <i>[Withheld under s6(a)]</i> Inter-Agency Working Group #1	Release with some information withheld under s6(a) and s9(2)(g)(ii).
2	3/9/25	<i>[Withheld under s6(a)]</i> Inter-Agency Working Group #1 Record of Meeting	Release with some information withheld under s6(a) and s9(2)(g)(ii).

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
3	3/9/25	Email: <i>[Withheld under s6(a)]</i> IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions	Release with some information withheld under s6(a) and s9(2)(g)(ii).
4	19/9/25	Emails: Israel-Palestine <i>[Withheld under s6(a)]</i> - Update from MFAT	Release with some information withheld under s6(a), s9(2)(a), and s9(2)(g)(ii).
5	27/9/25 and 26/9/25	Emails: Re: <i>[Withheld under s6(a)]</i> IAWG Recognition of Palestine – decision NOT to recognise a State of Palestine	Release with some information withheld under s6(a), s9(2)(a), and s9(2)(g)(ii).

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Jeremy Clarke-Watson
Deputy Chief Executive
National Security and Resilience

From: [Marika Hughes \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Sean Bolton \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [SCMU \[DPMC\]](#); [Mark Talbot \[DPMC\]](#); [Kevin Moar \[DPMC\]](#); [Kathrine Wigley \[DPMC\]](#); [Matt Torbit \[DPMC\]](#); [s6\(a\) \[DPMC\]](#); [Julian Grey \[DPMC\]](#); [s6\(a\) \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: 2025-09-03 Note to Chair - s6(a) Inter-Agency Working Group #1
Date: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 4:05:48 pm

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Sean

Today I convened an IAWG in relation to the upcoming FPS/Cabinet discussion regarding recognition of Palestine, at the request of MFAT as lead agency. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure agencies have consistent situational awareness; consider key risks and to discuss strategic communication and engagement requirements. Five agencies attended (DPMC, MEC, MFAT, NZSIS and Police).

This meeting followed one convened by MFAT a few weeks ago, and served as a good check-in to confirm that agencies continue to be well-connected. Some key points:

- MFAT confirmed the timings for Ministers to make the decision - FPS (8 September) and Cabinet (15 September). The Cabinet paper is being held very tightly, and there are constraints on disseminating some of the content at this stage. MFAT is working very closely with MFA's office to remove barriers where possible and make information available for operational planning purposes.
- No matter which way the decision goes, there are risks and implications across a range of areas, including for social cohesion and public safety, international reputation and relationships, trade, etc.
 - Agencies are working to mitigate risks associated with each potential outcome to the extent possible. In addition to ensuring appropriate information is made available for planning, MFAT will provide information to posts as a heads' up in recognition that there may be security implications overseas as well as in the domestic setting, and will ensure information is provided to NZDF for any potential impact for overseas deployments.
 - s6(a) [REDACTED]
- Agencies acknowledged that there is heightened angst within the Jewish and Muslim communities in New Zealand, and that protests are planned and more can be expected, but there is nothing specific to indicate any violent protest or extremist activity is planned.
 - DPMC (Strat Comms) will check in with PSC about whether they can disseminate the political neutrality guidance for public servants in the next few days/next week, as has been done in advance of other known planned protest activity.
- Agencies confirmed that there is no need for proactive engagement on this specific issue at this time, as discussed at the previous meeting led by MFAT, but there is a range of other engagement underway.
- There is a communications plan in place. Talking points are still being developed s6(a) [REDACTED]
 - MFAT is unable to share the /talking points at this stage, but is seeking to ensure that they are ready for agencies on Monday s6(a) [REDACTED]
 - MEC will work with its Minister's office to ensure relevant talking points are made

available to other Ministers/MPs for use when engaging with constituents following the announcement of the decision.

There is no need for a Watch Group at this stage. Triggers to consider reconvening or escalating are:

- Credible information received that violent activity is planned;
- Information suggesting significant implications for New Zealand's national risk management objectives; or
- At the request of the lead agency.

Happy to discuss more when you've got a chance, there are a few dimensions I would like to run you through, but not urgent. Have a nice evening.

Ngā mihi

Marika

Marika Hughes (she/her)

Director, Strategic Crisis Management Unit

Risk and Systems Governance Group

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(g)(ii)

E marika.hughes@dpmc.govt.nz

SCMU Duty Contacts

T s9(2)(g)(ii)

E scmu@dpmc.govt.nz



ODESC

Officials' Committee for Domestic
and External Security Coordination

s6(a) Inter-Agency Working Group #1 Record of Meeting

Beehive Level 8

3 September 2025, 1400-1500

Attendees

Agency	Attendee
DPMC	Marika Hughes (Chair)
	s6(a) (Secretariat)
	Kevin Moar
	s6(a)
	Matt Torbit
MFAT	s9(2)(g)(ii)
NZSIS	s6(a)
MEC	Berlinda Chin
NZ Police	Sean Hansen

Introduction

1. The Chair welcomed attendees and noted the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the potential implications of decision making regarding the potential recognition of Palestine, to ensure agencies have consistent situational awareness; consider key risks and to discuss strategic communication and engagement requirements.

Situation update

2. MFAT discussed the indicative timing for political decision making, noting the high levels of sensitivity around the process and the close-hold nature of the considerations. There is a need to ensure officials are not seen to be doing anything that could be perceived as getting ahead of Ministerial decision-making or inflame this situation by activity that appears to pre-suppose a particular outcome.

- Key dates were a Foreign Policy and National Security Committee Meeting (8 September) and Cabinet (15 September).

- Any announcement of a decision may not be immediate and could be during the week of 22 September (UN General Assembly High-level Week 2025).

Risks and implications

3. Agencies noted that they were planning for all potential outcomes, and that regardless of outcome, there are risks and implications across a range of areas, including for social cohesion and public safety. Agencies are working to mitigate risks to the extent possible.
 - There is heightened angst within the Jewish and Muslim communities in New Zealand, communities are having discussions around safety, and there is significant activity in online spaces.
 - Agencies noted that protests are planned (including a large-scale one in Auckland on 13 September) and more can be expected, but that there is nothing specific to indicate any violent protest or extremist activity is planned.
4. Agencies noted that due to the polarised and global nature of the issue, the outcome of any decision could have implications for New Zealand interests overseas.
 - In addition to ensuring appropriate information is made available to agencies for planning purposes, MFAT will provide information to its posts and will ensure information is provided to NZDF for any impact to deployment areas.

5. s6(a)

Communications and engagement

6. Agencies confirmed that there is no need for proactive engagement on this specific issue at this time, but there is a range of other engagement underway.
7. There is a communications plan in place. Talking points are still being developed, s6(a)
8. MFAT is unable to share the talking points at this stage but is seeking to ensure that they are available s6(a) [Subsequently confirmed that Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs will work with other Ministers' offices as required].
9. MEC will work with its Minister's office to ensure relevant talking points are made available to other Ministers/MPs for use when engaging with constituents following the announcement of the decision.

Next steps

10. Agencies agreed no additional ODESC system meetings were required at this time.

11. The triggers for reconvening are:

- Credible information received that violent activity is planned;
- Information suggesting significant implications for New Zealand's national risk management objectives; or
- At the request of the lead agency.

Actions

Action items		
Item	Detail	Responsibility
1.	Confirm the approach to disseminating a communications plan to relevant agencies by Friday afternoon, following a meeting with MFA. This approach would include whether the plan and relevant lines would be shared either in line with decision timeframes or as required by events.	MFAT
2.	Draft a form of words that can be shared with relevant agencies about the decision timeframe, for planning purposes.	MFAT
3.	Distribute recent press release on the Government's intended approach to Inter-Agency Working Group members.	MFAT
4.	Ensure reactive lines will be distributed to a wider range of Ministers and Members of Parliament through the Office of the Minister for Ethnic Communities; either in line with decision timeframes or as required by events.	MEC
5.	Engage with AC/SCE to ensure that NZDF is appraised of timeframes for decisions, for use in informing planning for overseas deployments.	MFAT
6.	Engage with Public Service Commission about disseminating potential guidance around engagement, protest and public service neutrality.	DPMC (Strat Comms)

From: [SCMJ \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Marika Hughes \[DPMC\]](#); [HANSEN, Sean](#); [s6\(a\)](#); [s9\(2\)\(q\)\(ii\)](#)
[Berlinda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz](#); [s9\(2\)\(g\)\(ii\)](#)
Cc: [SCMJ \[DPMC\]](#); [Kevin Moar \[DPMC\]](#); [s6\(a\)](#) [\[DPMC\]](#); [Matt Torbit \[DPMC\]](#); [Kathrine Wigley \[DPMC\]](#);
[Mark Talbot \[DPMC\]](#); [Sean Bolton \[DPMC\]](#); [s6\(a\)](#) [\[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: [s6\(a\)](#) IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions
Date: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 4:21:18 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for your attendance and contributions at this afternoon's [s6\(a\)](#) Inter-Agency Working Group #1. Please see below the decisions and actions from the meeting.

Action items		
Item	Detail	Responsibility
1.	Confirm the approach to disseminating a communications plan to relevant agencies by Friday afternoon, following a meeting with MFA. This approach would include whether the plan and relevant lines would be shared either in line with decision timeframes or as required by events.	MFAT
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5.	Engage with AC/SCE to ensure that NZDF is appraised of timeframes for decisions, for use in informing planning for overseas deployments.	MFAT
6.	Engage with Public Service Commission about disseminating potential guidance around engagement, protest and public service neutrality.	DPMC (Strat Comms)

Decisions

The IAWG:

- **Agreed** that there is no need for proactive engagement with relevant

communities.

- **Agreed** that there is no need for a Watch Group at this time.

Triggers to consider reconvening:

- Credible information received that violent activity is planned;
- Information suggesting significant implications for New Zealand's national risk management objectives; or
- At the request of the lead agency.

Ngā mihi

s6(a) on behalf of SCMU
(she/her)
Senior Advisor
Strategic Crisis Management Unit
Risk and Systems Governance Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(g)(ii)
E s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz

SCMU Duty Contacts: T +s9(2)(g)(ii) | E scmu@dpmc.govt.nz



**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
To: HANSEN, Sean; SCMU [DPMC]; Marika Hughes [DPMC]; s6(a) Berlinda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(ii) Matt Torbit [DPMC]; Kevin Moar [DPMC]; s6(a) Mark Talbot [DPMC]; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC]; Sean Bolton [DPMC]; s6(a) s9(2)(g)(ii) (TPND); s9(2)(g)(ii); ^Ethnic: Pratima.namasivayam; ^EX1: Stephen.Lenik
Cc: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Subject: Israel-Palestine s6(a) - Update from MFAT | ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED
Date: Friday, 19 September 2025 2:21:54 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED |

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Hello everyone and happy Friday!

A quick update from MFAT. Our DCE provided a similar update to NSB on 17/09.

Key points:

- The question of whether New Zealand will recognise a Palestinian state was discussed at FPS on 9 September and Cabinet on Monday 15th.
- The Government's decision on the issue will be finalised and announced during the United Nations General Assembly High Level Week in New York (23-29 September). We anticipate that this will be as part of the NZ National Statement to be delivered by MFA (exact timing yet to be confirmed, but we are expecting either Saturday 27th or Sunday 28th NZT).
- The PM and MFA are continuing to discuss this issue with a number of foreign counterparts.
- International and domestic comms on this issue are being led out of the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, so we are not in a position to share these with you as yet. If asked, please refer your Minister's offices to OMFA. OMFA have the social cohesion lines that DPMC and MEC have provided us previously. We expect to be able to share comms with you at the same time the announcement goes out (i.e. over that weekend).
- MFAT's Security and Organisational Resilience Division (SORD) is contingency planning for our offices in NZ and advice has been provided to all MFAT's offshore posts. Thanks to CTAG, NZSOC, Police for their support. NZDF please let us know if there is anything further you need from us.
- Talking points are also being developed for use with our key likeminded partners; Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

- s6(a)

s6(a)

Any questions, please sing out.

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Kaiwhakahaere Wāhanga | **Divisional Manager**
Rāwhiti-pū me Te Onetupu | **Middle East and Africa Division**
Manatū Aorere | **New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade**

M s9(2)(a) | E s9(2)(g)(ii)



RESTRICTED

From: HANSEN, Sean <Sean.Hansen@Police.Govt.NZ>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:54 AM

To: s9(2)(g)(ii) SCMU [DPMC]
<SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)
; Berlanda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)
; Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine
Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>;TALBOT, Mark (Inet)
<mark.talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)
@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: s6(a) IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s9(2)(g)(ii)

Appreciate the update.

S

Sean Hansen

Detective Superintendent – Director, National Security

P +64 4 979 5249 | **Ext** 41449

M +s9(2)(a) | **ISTN** 2553

E sean.hansen@police.govt.nz

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 6:38:48 PM

To: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; HANSEN, Sean <Sean.Hansen@Police.Govt.NZ>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]>; Berlanda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz <Berlanda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]>; Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>;TALBOT, Mark (Inet) <mark.talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: s6(a) IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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[UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good evening everyone.

A further update to my message yesterday. Following the FPS meeting yesterday OMFA has advised us that a decision has not yet been taken on recognition, and we now understand that nothing will be announced until the Minister is in New York at the UN for Leaders week, sometime in the slot 24 - 26 Sept.

No change on our advice on comms. These are being handled directly by OMFA. They will manage media points s6(a) <[REDACTED]> We will revert closer to the time with more detailed comms advice, but that is now a few more weeks away.

Kind regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 4:09 PM

To: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; HANSEN, Sean <sean.hansen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a);
; Berlinda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a);
; Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>;TALBOT, Mark (Inet) <mark.talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

Subject: RE: s6(a) IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions

Hi all,

Further to our earlier conversation about comms, s6(a) OMFA advise that their office will handle this. As discussed, s6(a) for now we won't be disseminating anything more to officials. s6(a) I don't have any more information on timelines for a decision beyond what I said last week, which was that we expect something either on the 15th, or during the week of the 22nd from NYK – but that is all still tbc.

Cheers

s9(2)(g)(ii)

From: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:28 PM

To: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; HANSEN, Sean <sean.hansen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a);
; s9(2)(g)(ii)
Berlinda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a);
; Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>;TALBOT, Mark (Inet) <mark.talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

Subject: RE: s6(a) IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions

Kia ora koutou

As mentioned yesterday, please see the National Risk Objectives FYI. Apologies to not

include these in the original email.

National risk management objectives :

Ensuring public safety – providing for, and mitigating risks to, the safety of citizens and communities (all hazards and threats, whether natural or man made).

- Preserving sovereignty and territorial integrity – protecting the physical security of citizens, and exercising control over territory consistent with national sovereignty.
- Protecting lines of communication – these are both physical and virtual and allow New Zealand to communicate, trade and engage globally.
- Strengthening international order to promote security – contributing to the development of a rules-based international system, and engaging in targeted interventions offshore to protect New Zealand's interests.
- Sustaining economic prosperity – maintaining and advancing the economic wellbeing of individuals, families, businesses and communities.
- Maintaining democratic institutions and national values – preventing activities aimed at undermining or overturning government institutions, principles and values that underpin New Zealand society.
- Protecting the natural environment – contributing to the preservation and stewardship of New Zealand's natural and physical environment.

Ngā mihi

s6(a) on behalf of SCMU
(she/her)
Senior Advisor
Strategic Crisis Management Unit
Risk and Systems Governance Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(g)(ii)
E s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz

SCMU Duty Contacts: T s9(2)(g)(ii) | E scmu@dpmc.govt.nz



From: SCMU [DPMC]

Sent: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 4:21 pm

To: Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; HANSEN, Sean
<sean.hansen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a), s9(2)(g)(ii)
Berlinda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>;
s6(a) [DPMC] <s6(a)@dpmc.govt.nz>; Matt Torbit [DPMC]

<Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>; Mark Talbot [DPMC] <Mark.Talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) [DPMC] <s6(a)@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: s6(a) IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for your attendance and contributions at this afternoon's s6(a) Inter-Agency Working Group #1. Please see below the decisions and actions from the meeting.

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2.	Draft a form of words that can be shared with relevant agencies about the decision timeframe, for planning purposes.	MFAT
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4.	Ensure reactive lines will be distributed to a wider range of Ministers and Members of Parliament through the Office of the Minister for Ethnic Communities; either in line with decision timeframes or as required by events.	MEC
5.	Engage with AC/SCE to ensure that NZDF is appraised of timeframes for decisions, for use in informing planning for overseas deployments.	MFAT
6.	Engage with Public Service Commission about disseminating potential guidance around engagement, protest and public service neutrality.	DPMC (Strat Comms)

Decisions

The IAWG:

- **Agreed** that there is no need for proactive engagement with relevant communities.
- **Agreed** that there is no need for a Watch Group at this time.

Triggers to consider reconvening:

- Credible information received that violent activity is planned;
- Information suggesting significant implications for New Zealand's national risk management objectives; or
- At the request of the lead agency.

Ngā mihi

s6(a) on behalf of SCMU
(she/her)
Senior Advisor
Strategic Crisis Management Unit
Risk and Systems Governance Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(g)(ii)
E s6(a) @dpmc.govt.nz

SCMU Duty Contacts: T +s9(2)(g)(ii) | E scmu@dpmc.govt.nz



**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
To: SCMU [DPMC]; Marika Hughes [DPMC]; HANSEN, Sean; s6(a); Berlinda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii); Kevin Moar [DPMC]; ^Ethnic; Pratima.namasivayam; michael.collinson@nzdf.mil.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii) s9(2)(g)(ii)
Cc: s6(a) [DPMC]; Matt Torbit [DPMC]; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC]; Mark Talbot [DPMC]; Sean Bolton [DPMC]; s6(a) [DPMC]; ^s9(2)(g)(ii); ^s9(2)(g)(ii); s9(2)(g)(ii); Shaw, Andrew, BRIG; ^EXT: Stephen Lenik; s9(2)(g)(ii)
Subject: RE: s6(a) IAWG Recognition of Palestine - decision NOT to recognise a State of Palestine
Date: ~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED Saturday, 27 September 2025 11:29:23 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

~~RESTRICTED~~ UNCLASSIFIED

Colleagues,

A final update from MFAT.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has announced that New Zealand will NOT be recognising a State of Palestine at this time.

In addition to the social cohesion lines sent yesterday, MFAT has sent the following Talking Points to our posts. This are for your background only. Any media enquiries should be directed to the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

MFAT Security Division is closely monitoring reactions for any implications for the security of NZ's posts overseas, as well as our Wellington and Auckland offices. We will let you know if any major issues arise. Please do let us know if any issues arise in your respective areas.

Kind regards

s9(2)(g)(ii)

All host governments/accreditations

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs has announced New Zealand's position that the conditions are not currently appropriate for New Zealand to change its approach to Palestinian statehood.
- These conditions include the ongoing state of conflict and the lack of clarity regarding future governance arrangements in Gaza and the West Bank, in particular the role of Hamas.
- We have been clear that New Zealand's concern is not with the Palestinian Authority, which faces very difficult circumstances.

- New Zealand's primary focus remains the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and we have announced an additional NZD\$10m in humanitarian funding bringing our total contribution to NZD\$47.25m.
- New Zealand has recently provided NZD\$750 000 of institutional capacity building support for the Palestinian Authority through the Office of the Quartet. We are considering options for future support.
- New Zealand is a long-standing supporter of the two state solution and our approach remains that recognition is a matter of "when, not if".
- Our position toward the conflict remains unchanged, this includes:
 - *Israel must immediately stop military action and implement a ceasefire*
 - *Israel's military response long ago ceased to be proportionate, reasonable or moral*
 - *New Zealanders are shocked to the core by the humanitarian situation in Gaza*
 - *Humanitarian aid must be surged in immediately, without restriction*
 - *Israel must immediately cease efforts to undermine a two-state solution, including illegal settlements in the West Bank*
 - *Peace can only be achieved through an urgent restart of the Middle East Peace process*
- New Zealand has taken a range of steps to give effect to our concerns with Israel including diplomatic actions and travel bans on Israeli ministers and extremist settlers.
- We remain keen to continue to explore ways to work with our close partners on both responding to the immediate crisis in Gaza and the broader effort of supporting a return to the Peace Process.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Kaiwhakahaere Wāhanga | **Divisional Manager**
Rāwhiti-pū me Te Onetupu | **Middle East and Africa Division**
Manatū Aorere | **New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade**

MS9(2)(a) | ES9(2)(g)(ii) @mfat.govt.nz



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From: s9(2)(g)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2025 4:22 pm
To: 'SCMU [DPMC]' <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; HANSEN, Sean <sean.hansen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]> Berlanda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii) <[REDACTED]> Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>; Pratima Namasivayam <pratima.namasivayam@ethniccommunities.govt.nz>
Cc: s6(a) <[REDACTED]> [DPMC] s6(a) <[REDACTED]> @dpmc.govt.nz>; Matt Torbit [DPMC] <Matt.Torbit@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kathrine Wigley [DPMC] <kathrine.wigley@dpmc.govt.nz>;TALBOT, Mark (Inet) <mark.talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]> [DPMC] s6(a) <[REDACTED]> @dpmc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii) <[REDACTED]> s9(2)(g)(ii) <[REDACTED]> Shaw, Andrew, BRIG <andrew.shaw@nzdf.mil.nz>; EXT: Stephen Lenik <stephen.lenik@nzdf.mil.nz>; s9(2)(g)(ii) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: s6(a) <[REDACTED]> IAWG Recognition of Palestine - to be announced 1100NZT Saturday 27 September

Hello again all,

Another update from me, for your planning.

- MFA is scheduled to address the UN General Assembly at 11.00 on Saturday 27 September, New Zealand Time. He will announce the Government's decision on recognition during this address. (Noting that these statements don't always stick to schedule so it could be slightly earlier or slightly later).
- We will provide you with copies of our international and domestic comms immediately following the announcement.
- MFA will be speaking to NZ media in an open online session about 12.30 NZT Saturday 27 September.
- All media enquiries related to recognition of Palestine should be directed to and responded to by MFA's office.

Meanwhile, with thanks to MEC and DPMC, I am recirculating the social cohesion talking points below.

Social cohesion

- We know that New Zealand families are understandably worried about this conflict and their loved ones overseas.
- We know many New Zealand families have already been impacted by the conflict in the region and our thoughts go out to them and their communities.
- We all want New Zealand to be a peaceful, inclusive country.
- Everyone in Aotearoa has a role to play in continuing to ensure New Zealand is a peaceful nation.
- We ask that all communities – as New Zealanders – to remain respectful and empathetic towards each other, including being mindful of language both online and in person.
- We will only thrive as a nation if we can share and discuss sometimes quite different points of view in a constructive and respectful way.
- Government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, NZ Police, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and our intelligence agencies are maintaining an ongoing dialogue with various community leaders.
- These discussions provide a platform for community leaders to express their communities' concerns, collaborate on addressing these issues, and ensure their views and concerns are shared with relevant government agencies.

General social cohesion messaging

- In a socially cohesive society, all people, whānau and communities connect and feel a sense of belonging, are able to participate, are recognised and respected, are equitably included and have trust in others and institutions.
- Everyone can make a contribution to social cohesion. We can work to achieve social cohesion through encouraging positive interactions within and across diverse groups, fostering inclusive values, valuing diverse contributions, supporting participation, working to protect our society and environment for future generations, tackling discrimination and promoting equitable economic and social inclusion.
- [Te Korowai Whetū Social Cohesion package of tools and resources](#) can be used by individuals and communities to strengthen social cohesion through their own mahi. This package includes helpful information sheets for individuals and communities which provide practical tips for strengthening social cohesion.

Responding to hate crimes and incidents

- If you, your friends or whānau have experienced abuse, violence, threats, or intimidation motivated by hostility or prejudice, it is extremely important that you report it.
- You can report a hate crime or incident online using 105 non-emergency report or by calling 105. To report anonymously, use [Crime Stoppers](#) or you can make a complaint to the [Human Rights Commission](#).

Report to Police

- If someone is in danger or an incident is happening now, call 111 immediately.
- If an incident has already happened and no one is in immediate danger, report it online by visiting: 105.police.govt.nz. This will ensure the matter is logged and appropriately

assigned. Once a report is received a case number will be issued and this can be referenced for monitoring the progress of a complaint.

Additional information on reporting hate crimes, online violent extremism and harmful digital content

The following link provides guidance on reporting Hate Crimes, online Violent Extremism and harmful digital content. <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/advice-victims/hate-crime>.

From: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 12:03 pm

To: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Marika Hughes [DPMC]

<Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; HANSEN, Sean <sean.hansen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a)

; s9(2)(g)(ii)

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<mark.talbot@dpmc.govt.nz>; Sean Bolton [DPMC] <Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

[DPMC] <[s6\(a\)@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:s6(a)@dpmc.govt.nz)>

Subject: s6(a) IAWG 1 - Record of Meeting

Kia ora koutou

Please see attached the record of meeting for s6(a) IAWG meeting #1 held on 3 September 2025.

For any questions or comments, please contact scmu@dpmc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi

s6(a) (she/her)

Senior Advisor

Strategic Crisis Management Unit

Risk and Systems Governance Group

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

From: SCMU [DPMC]

Sent: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 4:21 pm

To: Marika Hughes [DPMC] <Marika.Hughes@dpmc.govt.nz>; HANSEN, Sean

<sean.hansen@police.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]>; s9(2)(g)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

<[REDACTED]>; Berlinda.Chin@ethniccommunities.govt.nz; s9(2)(g)(ii) <[REDACTED]>

Cc: SCMU [DPMC] <SCMU@dpmc.govt.nz>; Kevin Moar [DPMC] <Kevin.Moar@dpmc.govt.nz>;

s6(a) <[REDACTED]> [DPMC] s6(a) <[REDACTED]@dpmc.govt.nz>; Matt Torbit [DPMC]

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<Sean.Bolton@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a) <[REDACTED]> [DPMC] s6(a) <[REDACTED]@dpmc.govt.nz>

Subject: s6(a) <[REDACTED]> IAWG 1 - Actions and Decisions

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Tēnā koutou,

Thank you for your attendance and contributions at this afternoon's s6(a) <[REDACTED]> Inter-Agency Working Group #1. Please see below the decisions and actions from the meeting.

Action items		
Item	Detail	Responsibility
1.	Confirm the approach to disseminating a communications plan to relevant agencies by Friday afternoon, following a meeting with MFA. This approach would include whether the plan and relevant lines would be shared either in line with decision timeframes or as required by events.	MFAT
2.	Draft a form of words that can be shared with relevant agencies about the decision timeframe, for planning purposes.	MFAT
3.	Distribute recent press release on the Government's intended approach to Inter-Agency Working Group members.	MFAT
4.	Ensure reactive lines will be distributed to a wider range of Ministers and Members of Parliament through the Office of the Minister for Ethnic Communities; either in line with decision timeframes or as required by events.	MEC
5.	Engage with AC/SCE to ensure that NZDF is appraised of timeframes for decisions, for use in informing planning for overseas deployments.	MFAT

6.	Engage with Public Service Commission about disseminating potential guidance around engagement, protest and public service neutrality.	DPMC (Strat Comms)
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Decisions

The IAWG:

- **Agreed** that there is no need for proactive engagement with relevant communities.
- **Agreed** that there is no need for a Watch Group at this time.

Triggers to consider reconvening:

- Credible information received that violent activity is planned;
- Information suggesting significant implications for New Zealand's national risk management objectives; or
- At the request of the lead agency.

Ngā mihi

s6(a) on behalf of SCMU
(she/her)
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

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