



30 January 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0417

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act request for communications relating to Fijian UN staff member seeking treatment for COVID-19 in 2021**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 6 January 2026. You requested:

*I write in relation to the events of the Fijian UN Worker allowed to enter NZ for covid treatment on or around July 29 2021*

*<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/fiji-mercy-flight-infected-un-staffer-transferred-in-disease-capsule-vaccinated-crew-wore-full-ppe/ORXG2QE3TFF3TIZ272A5FPAHTU/>*

*I have already received OIAs from MFAT and Health - however it seems I am missing material from the PMO*

*See attached email the 28 July 2021 413pm one*

*1. I seek a copy of all material held by PMO, Jacinda Ardern, and DPMC relating to this matter - the Fiji Un worker flown into NZ on or around 29 July 2021.*

*This is between the period 26 July 2021 to 1 November 2021. The extended date is due to Parliament questions being raised and the possibility material was created during that time by DPMC/PMO/Ardern*

*2. The PMOs Office was notified of the result of the 1pm meeting with the DHBs and advised Helen Clark.*

*a. I seek information about this communication - the time, how it was made, by whom, directed by whom, if a call then incoming or outgoing, and if in writing then a copy of it*

*3. The email states Dr Bloomfield "provided the same" to Seed and Mahuta. I have the comms between Dr Bloomfield and Mr Seed but not with the PMO/Ardern or Mahuta.*

*If not clear in request 1 then I seek all records relating to this matter:*

*b.. all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Dr Bloomfield 26- 30 July 2021*

*c. all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Helen Clark 26- 30 July 2021*

*d. all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Megan McCoy (Moh) 26- 30 July 2021*

*e. all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Dr Andrew Connolly 26- 30 July 2021*

*f. all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Dr Peter Watson 26- 30 July 2021*

*g. all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Dr Mike Shepard 26- 30 July 2021*

*h. all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Minister Mahuta or her office or staff including any MFAT staff member 26- 30 July 2021*

*i all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with any Ministry of Health or DHB staff member 26- 30 July 2021*

*j all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with any UN agency staff member 27, 28, 29, 30 July 2021*

*k all internal DPMC communications or with any other agency or person 26- 30 July 2021*

*i all PMO/DPMC/Arden communications with Chris Hipkins or anyone in his Office or staff 26- 30 July 2021.*

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) can only respond to your request as it relates to information held or received by DPMC. Some information may be held by the Ministry of Health (MoH) or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT); however, we note you have received a response from these agencies and therefore partial transfers are not necessary and I refer you to their responses.

The Prime Minister's office holds information only in relation to the current Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. At the end of their tenures, information held by Ministers including Prime Ministers is returned to the relevant departments or agencies. Accordingly, on 13 January 2026 you were advised that parts [b] – [j] and [i] of your request were partially transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) as it relates to former Ministers or former Prime Minister records. DIA will respond to you directly with any information they may hold relevant to your request.

In addition, I note DIA may not hold all the information you have requested. Information held by former Ministers is also transferred to Archives New Zealand. You can search public records online via the Archives New Zealand website at: [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz)

### **Information being released**

Further searches were completed of our Information Management System for anything relevant to your request held by DPMC, that would not have been covered off by the responses you have already received from MoH and MFAT.

One email has been identified dated 28 July 2021 that is held by DPMC, which I am partially releasing to you. This email was sent from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to DPMC and some information within the email is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Nothing else has been identified that is relevant to your request.

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



Alan Cassidy  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate**

**From:** [Guergana Guermanoff \[DPMC\]](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** [Andrew Campbell](#); s9(2); [Madison Edilson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: For info: Fiji: Medivac of UNDP staffer  
**Date:** Wednesday, 28 July 2021 12:59:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

FYI too – see below



**From:** s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 July 2021 9:28 am  
**To:** Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] <Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>; Madison Edilson [DPMC] <Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** s9(2)(a) parliament.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz

**Subject:** For info: Fiji: Medivac of UNDP staffer

Hi all,

A quick heads up an emerging issue: MFAT are currently working through a possible medevac for a UN staffer with COVID from Suva. A brief summary is below. MFAT will come back to us with additional information and advice.

- The UN office in Suva has sought medevac for staff member with COVID.
- MFAT had put them in touch with the standard medevac process and all appeared to be on track (late yesterday MOH was consulting us on a media release announcing it).
- Yesterday evening CMDHB refused to accept the patient- stated reason was ICU capacity issues.
- This has left the UN in a bind as all the signs had been that it would work out.
- NYK has received representations from the UN's USG management; the USG has indicated they will seek a call with MFA.
- We also understand UNDP has reached out to Helen Clark for assistance, and that Helen may have already been in touch with MFA.
- DEVPP is calling contacts MOH and CMDHB now to get more info and MFAT will provide an update after that.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)(a)



s9(2)(a)  
Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister for Māori Development  
Waea pūkoro: s9(2)(a)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982