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

21 August 2026

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0065

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request relating to India New Zealand Business Council

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 26 July 2026. You requested:

> *No transfer*
> *I am sending parallel but separate requests to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, and the Office of the Prime Minister. I request that DPMC does NOT transfer any part of this request to any of those bodies, or to any other agency, under section 14. This request seeks DPMC's own records only, held by DPMC, and is distinct from any request made to the Office of the Prime Minister. Each agency's disclosures will be assessed separately.*
>
> *Scope*
> *Covering the period 1 January 2023 to the date of this request, I request the following information held by DPMC:*
>
> *1. All communications between any DPMC staff member or official and INZBC — including its officers, board members, staff, or anyone writing on its behalf or from an @inzbc.org address — where the subject matter relates to India–New Zealand trade, the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, or the horticulture Memorandum of Cooperation signed on 12 March 2025. "Communications" includes emails, letters, meeting invitations, meeting notes or minutes, file notes, briefings, and messages on any messaging platform (including WhatsApp, Signal or similar), including on personal devices or non-government accounts where they relate to official business, consistent with the Ombudsman's guidance.*
>
> *2. All internal DPMC records that refer to INZBC in connection with the subject matter in paragraph 1, including briefings to the Prime Minister or Cabinet, advice, talking points, meeting preparation, and records of decisions.*
>
> *3. Any INZBC report, submission, paper, or recommendation provided to or received by DPMC concerning the India–New Zealand trade relationship or the FTA — including any version of INZBC's "India Report" or equivalent — and any DPMC record discussing, assessing, or responding to it.*
>
> *4. Any records held by DPMC concerning INZBC's involvement in, attendance at, or contribution to Prime Ministerial delegations or visits to India, the India–New Zealand Business Summit, or FTA-related events.*
>
> *Public interest*
> *INZBC describes itself as the recognised main industry body for the India–New Zealand trade relationship, and a Minister has publicly described the Government's India engagement strategy as based on an INZBC report. INZBC's sponsors include the Government of India. There is a strong public interest in understanding the nature*

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and extent of the relationship between INZBC and the agencies and offices involved in the FTA and in India engagement, particularly while the India Free Trade Agreement Legislation Amendment Bill is before Parliament.

Refinement
If any part of this request would require substantial collation or research under section 18(f), I ask to be consulted under section 18B to refine the scope BEFORE any refusal on that basis. Please contact me before invoking section 18(f).

I would prefer the information by email, in electronic format.""

Information to be withheld

Identified as relevant to your request are some briefings provided by the DPMC Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of New Zealand.
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

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.

In addition, some information was identified that was sent to DPMC by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). As this information is more closely connected to MFAT's functions and responsibilities, we would usually partially transfer your request to MFAT under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. However, given your request was also sent to MFAT, I instead refer you to their response.

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 DPMC 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



Janine Smith
DCE, Policy and Delivery Unit