

From: OIA@justice.govt.nz
To: Section (9)(2)(a)
Subject: Your request for official information (our ref: OIA 103287)
Date: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 12:21:33 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Kia ora Section (9)(2)(a)

Thank you for request of 12 March 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) seeking information about international organisations with diplomatic privileges. Specifically you requested:

“Which organisations (established either locally or off-shore) have had their executive officers and/or employees granted:

a) special privileges that exempt them from specific rules and regulations normally applicable to N.Z. residents and companies (e.g. diplomatic-type exemptions to customs regulations, etc), and what are those special privileges?

b) legal immunity, and to what extent are they not subject to N.Z. legislation?

Specific examples may include, but are not limited to, the following organisations:

- the Bank for International Settlements (and its 63 member central banks)*
- various organisations of the United Nations*
- the W.H.O.*
- the World Bank*
- the I.M.F.*
- Pfizer*
- GAVI*
- the Red Cross*
- the O.A.S.”*

The Ministry sought to transfer your request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) under section 14 of the Act, however, MFAT advised that the information is publicly available. Specifically they advised:

The requestor can search the legislation website for the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1968 and see all the secondary legislation that provides for privileges and immunities for a range of organisations.

[Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1968 No 36 \(as at 28 October 2021\), Public Act – New Zealand Legislation](#). There are only two resident offices of regional/international organisations based in New Zealand who are entitled to diplomatic privileges and immunities (South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Office and the Pacific Trade and Investment office). The United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the United Nations Information Centre for Australia, NZ and the South Pacific are accredited from Canberra and while they are entitled to privileges they are unlikely to utilise them given they are non-resident.

As the information you have sought is publicly available, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Should you wish to make further inquiries of MFAT, they can be contacted at:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-requests/

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Naku noa, na



Antony Paltridge

Team Leader, Ministerial Relations and Services

Governance and Assurance

Ministry of Justice

From: Section (9)(2)(a)

Sent: Sunday, 12 March 2023 4:49 pm

To: OIA@justice.govt.nz

Subject: OIA request

Section (9)(2)(a)

My request is for the following information:

Which organisations (established either locally or off-shore) have had their executive officers and/or employees granted:

- a) special privileges that exempt them from specific rules and regulations normally applicable to N.Z. residents and companies (e.g. diplomatic-type exemptions to customs regulations, etc), and what are those special privileges?
- b) legal immunity, and to what extent are they not subject to N.Z. legislation?

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- the World Bank
- the I.M.F.
- Pfizer
- GAVI
- the Red Cross
- the O.A.S.

Respond with a reply to this email

- a) acknowledging receipt and a work in progress, and
- b) the outcome of your enquiries.

Thanking you (in advance),

Section (9)(2)(a)

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