

12 June 2025

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OIA 30133

Rhys Hurley
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Tēnā koe Rhys Hurley

Thank you for your email of 16 May 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- "• All internal and external correspondence (including emails, briefing notes, call records, or reports) relating to the logistics, importation, quarantine, or diplomatic handling of the Mongolian horse gifted to Winston Peters.*
- Any delays, complications, or issues raised by officials regarding the handling or transfer of the horse, including inter-agency communication (e.g. with MPI, Customs, MFAT, or the Mongolian government).*
- Any cost incurred by New Zealand government agencies in relation to the transport, accommodation, quarantine, or care of the horse.*
- The final outcome of the horse's handling – including where it is currently located and whether it was officially accepted as a diplomatic gift."*

In response to Part 1 of your request, the relevant documents are attached. Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
 - 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
 - 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
 - 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.
- Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Part 2 of your request is refused under 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

Regarding parts 3 and 4 of your request, The Ministry can confirm that the horse was accepted as a gift of the Mongolian Government. It remains in Mongolia in the care of a local family at no cost to the New Zealand Government. The Mongolian Government can facilitate visits to the horse in future if requested by the New Zealand Government

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:
www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade