



NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Aid Programme

New Zealand Aid Programme
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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Nga Hōe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti
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5 June 2012

Ms Joanna Spratt
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Dear Joanna Spratt

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your email of 24 August 2011 requesting, under the Official Information Act, information in relation to the following comment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's International Development Policy Statement:

"The New Zealand Aid Programme will make use of New Zealand's comparative advantages to add the most value to addressing our partners' needs. These include our strengths in sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, renewable energy, tourism, education, law and justice, including policing."

In relation to this statement, you requested the following:

- A description of the process that was undertaken to assess what New Zealand's comparative advantages are in relation to the thematic and geographical areas within which NZ Official Development Assistance is provided. This should include a description of the full scope of New Zealand's potential comparative advantage and how the listed areas above were arrived at.
- Any documents (both draft and final versions) that analyse New Zealand's comparative advantage, as outlined in the International Development Policy Statement.
- Any other information that can substantiate the arrival at New Zealand's comparative advantage as described in the International Development Policy Statement.

The notion of New Zealand's comparative advantage was considered as part of a much wider change process within the International Development Group (IDG) of MFAT over 2010 and 2011 which aimed at refreshing IDG's business model, achieving efficiencies and effectively delivering on the Government's priorities for the aid programme. This followed Cabinet's decision in 2009 to reintegrate NZAID into MFAT and to change its mandate to reflect a greater focus on sustainable economic development and the Pacific.

It is important to note that much of the analysis around the issue of comparative advantage was undertaken informally through working groups, team discussions and other fora, and was not recorded to be captured in specific documents. The process

reflected that it was largely seen as obvious what the notion of comparative advantage would entail in the New Zealand context, given existing knowledge about New Zealand's strengths and areas of need, especially in the Pacific. The general consensus reached confirmed that New Zealand possessed knowledge, expertise and skills in a number of broad areas, including agriculture, fisheries, tourism, renewable energy, education, and law and justice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Williams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade