



1 April 2025

Dr [REDACTED]

Israel Institute of NZ

[by email]

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Dear [REDACTED],

Official information request re Ms Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur

I refer to your official information request dated 14 February 2026 for all documents relating to Ms Albanese.

On 26 February we met with you and advised that we had undertaken a document search and identified that Ms Albanese had been referred to in a number of documents connected to the current legal challenge by individuals associated with the Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa relating to certain NZ Super Fund investments.

Given the quantity of information captured, you agreed that we could:

- Exclude schedules attached to affidavits that were caught by the request, on the basis that this information is either public or could be separately requested by you at a later point, if you felt it would be of interest;
- Exclude trivial information e.g. documents around meeting arrangements.

We note that we previously made a proactive disclosure on our website of a file note on our 2023 meeting with Francesca Albanese. This remains available at:

<https://www.nzsuperfund.nz/assets/Disclosures/Proactive-Disclosures/Meeting-with-Francesca-Albanese-File-Note-20231120.pdf?Search=Albanese>

We appreciate your assistance in clarifying your request.

Our Response

A summary of the information we identified as falling within the scope of the request, and the decisions we have made about it, is included below, with the information we are releasing attached at Appendix I.

We have withheld certain information on the basis that we have good reason for doing so under section 9 of the OIA. Note that your request also captured certain documents which are subject to litigation and/or other legal advice privilege. We are withholding these and have not itemised them within the table below.

We considered whether the public interest in favour of disclosure outweighs our reasons for withholding such information and concluded that it does not.

Summary of information held and decision made

Document date	Title	Decision
18 August 2025 1:43 am	Moral Money_ Investors ignore Gaza at their peril	Names and contact details for certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”. All other information released in full.
18 August 2025 12:53 am	Request for Clarification on Continued Investment in Israeli Government Bonds_2025-08-18	Names and contact details for certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”. All other information released in full.
15 July 2025	No EU sanctions on Israel	Names and contact details for certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”. All other information released in full.
6 August 2.09 am	Divest from Israeli Government Bonds	Names and contact details for certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”. All other information released in full.
30 October 2025 3.28 am	Pathfinder survey on conflict	Names and contact details for certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”. All other information released in full.
25 September 2025 7.58 am	UN Report of the Special Rapporteur re Palestine	Names and contact details for certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”. All other information released in full.
21 November 2023	Engagement with companies on OHCHR database of OPT businesses	Some content withheld primarily under Section 9(2)(b)(ii) “protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information”
3 November 2023	Re francesca albanese	Names and contact details for certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”. Other content withheld primarily under Section 9(2)(g)(i) “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between ... officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty”
19 February 2021; updated November 2023	Communications Plan exclusion of Israeli Banks	Released in full other than comments added during drafting process which have been withheld primarily under Section 9(2)(g)(i) “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between ...

Document date	Title	Decision
		officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty”.
28 July 2025	Affidavit of Anne-Maree O'Connor (Affirmed)	Some content withheld under Sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(i) “protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information” and “enable... any... organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities”
24 July 2025	Affidavit of Sir Michael Charles Wood KC (Affirmed)	Released in full
6 June 2025	Affidavit - SM Lynk	Released in full
30 January 2025	PSNZ litigation – affidavit of JB Minto	Released in full
23 September 2025	Updating affidavit of John Minto	Released in full
18 February 2025	PSNA litigation - statement of claim	Released in full
23 September 2025	Submissions for the applicants	Some content withheld under Sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(i) “protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information” and “enable... any... organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities” Names of certain individuals have been withheld under Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”.
7 October 2025	Respondent’s Submissions	Some content withheld under Sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(i) “protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information” and “enable... any... organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities”

Where we have withheld information, the core grounds we have relied upon, and a brief explanation of why they apply, are set out below. Please note that the explanation for certain different grounds overlap, and where this is the case we have included the explanation under one ground only (but it should be considered to apply to all grounds, as relevant).

A. Section 9(2)(a) – “protect the privacy of natural persons”

In the interests of protecting the privacy of individuals, we have redacted the names and identifying details of most individuals other than Leadership Team members. We note that:

- the relevant individuals are not decision-makers in respect of the relevant matter;
- the names/details appear in the context of activities, advice and/or processes – i.e. the names appear in a specific context which constitutes a privacy interest.

We cannot see any public interest in, or public benefit from, the release of this personal information. It is not required for the purposes of transparency and accountability. There is no good reason why these individuals in particular should be subjected to potential public scrutiny.

B. Sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(i) – “protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information” and “enable... any... organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities”.

We carry out commercial activities in respect of the Fund. In investing the Fund we compete in a global market for access to the best investment managers, investment opportunities, co-investors, advisers and other service providers including ESG related suppliers, such as data providers and engagement firms.

These entities operate in their own highly competitive markets and are very concerned about protecting their sensitive commercial information. They will not work with us if we cannot uphold the confidentiality of this information. Releasing this information would therefore prejudice and/or disadvantage our ability to undertake our commercial activities.

Releasing this information would also prejudice these third parties' commercial position by making freely available their professional analysis and judgements, for which we have paid a fee on a commercial basis.

We strongly believe that it is in the public interest that we can maintain the highest standards of commercial sensitivity with those we work with.

C. Section 9(2)(g)(i) – “maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty”.

It is important for our efficient and effective operations that our staff and officers are able to express their opinions freely and frankly. The documents include opinions of staff members who prepared those materials. The release of such information is likely to inhibit frankness and candour in the future which will be detrimental to good investment decision making and contrary to the public interest.

D. Section 9(2)(h) – “maintain legal professional privilege”. It is necessary that we withhold that information to maintain litigation privilege and legal professional privilege. Legal professional privilege is an important protection that will not be set aside except in the clearest cases. In this case, we do not consider that there is a public interest in releasing the relevant information that outweighs our interest in protecting our legal privilege.

As itemised above, we attach the documents we have identified in our searches which we consider to be within the scope of your request and which we are releasing to you, either in full or in part.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where we consider the request to be a material one. Our response to your request will be published at <https://www.nzsuperfund.nz/publications/disclosures/oia/>, with the documents themselves and your personal information removed.

Please also note that judgment has not yet been issued in respect of the legal proceedings mentioned above, and that certain materials we have released to you form part of the court documents. These are subject to specific disclosure rules were such documents to be requested from the High Court. While the OIA applies to us separately in respect of court documents that we hold, and we have responded on that basis, we wanted to highlight this dynamic to you so that you can assess what considerations may apply to the further use of the court documents and treat them with due sensitivity.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Etheredge

Head of Communications