

26 May 2026

John Minto

Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

By email: [REDACTED]

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Dear John,

Official information request for information relating to the pro-Israel lobby and policy amendments

I refer to your official information request dated 26 April 2026 (received on 28 April 2026) for information relating to the pro-Israel lobby and sustainable investment policy amendments by the Guardians of NZ Superannuation.

We set out our response to your requests below.

- 1) ***Records, notes or minutes of meetings held between January 2021 and December 2022 involving Superfund representatives (either Guardians of the Superfund or staff employed by the Superfund) and representatives of organisations or individuals advocating in favour of Superfund investments in Israeli companies or companies active in Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territories.***
- 2) ***In these records we would appreciate knowing those in attendance at the meetings, the items discussed, the expressed views of both groups – ie the Superfund and the lobbyists – and any future commitments from either group.***

A call was held with Dr David Cumin of the Israel Institute on 8 October 2021. Attending from the Guardians were the Head of Communications (Catherine Etheredge) and a Communications team member working on the OIA response.

The meeting was to clarify the scope of Dr Cumin's request of 30 September 2021 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The discussion is detailed in our response to that OIA, available on our website at:

https://www.nzsuperfund.nz/assets/Disclosures/Official-Information-Act-Requests/OIA-2021-22/R-OIA-Response-10-November_2021.PDF

Our searches have not identified any other meetings.

This request is therefore refused under Section 18(d) of the OIA on the basis that the information is publicly available and you are able to access it yourself.

- 3) ***Copies of all correspondence between January 2021 and December 2022 with Superfund representatives (either Guardians of the Superfund or staff employed by the Superfund) and representatives of organisations or individuals advocating in favour of Superfund investments in Israeli companies or companies active in Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territories.***

As you are aware, correspondence on OIA matters between the Guardians and the Israel Institute of New Zealand, and other requestors of information, has previously been disclosed on our website at:

<https://www.nzsuperfund.nz/publications/disclosures/oia/>. In responding to this request, we have not duplicated this OIA-related correspondence in the list below, nor have we included administrative emails to and from requestors regarding OIA matters (on the basis that the relevant information is captured in the correspondence we have already disclosed).

We attach at Appendix I the documents we have identified in our searches which we consider to be within the scope of your request. We are releasing them to you, either in full or in part. A summary table setting our decision in respect of each document is included overleaf.

The table below sets out the documents we have identified for release and our decision in respect of each.

We have withheld certain information in order to protect the privacy of natural persons (per section 9(2)(a) of the OIA) on the basis that we have good reason for doing so. We cannot see any public interest in the release of this personal information. In respect of our decision to withhold the names of members of the public who have complained to us, we consider it is important that people are able to do so privately. We feel that disclosing the names and contact details of these people could deter others from complaining to us in the future, and could potentially subject them to personal harassment from those with opposing views. Disclosure of this information, and that of certain members of staff of the Guardians, is not required for the purposes of transparency and accountability in respect of the Guardians as the manager of the NZ Super Fund. We considered whether the public interest in favour of disclosure outweighs our reasons for withholding such information and concluded that it does not.

Note: we have also located a reference in an internal workstream management document to a 5 March 2021 email from a member of the public, we believe on this issue, entitled "hey turds", but have not been able to locate a copy of the email itself in our records. Similarly, we have also located references suggesting responses and acknowledgements of receipt were sent in respect of certain emails we have disclosed to you; however, we have not been able to locate copies of these. In respect of the 5 May 2021 email and the responses and acknowledgements referred to above, your request is therefore refused under section 18e of the OIA on the basis that the documents cannot be found.

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 shortly at <https://www.nzsuperfund.nz/publications/disclosures/oia/>, with your personal information removed.

With respect to your fourth question, some documents which were captured by this request have recently been released. These are available at: <https://www.nzsuperfund.nz/publications/disclosures/oia/> (see entry for 20 May 2026). As set out in our email of 15 May, we are working through further documents relating to this specific question and will respond by Friday, 12 June 2026.

Yours sincerely



Jo Townsend

Chief Executive

PSNA OIA – QUESTION 3 - SUMMARY DECISION TABLE

DATE	DETAILS	DECISION
3 March 2021	Email from Dr David Cumin to Guardians Chair Catherine Savage: <i>Attn- Catherine Savage; RE- Your decision to single out the only Jewish nation for special treatment</i>	Released in full other than contact details for Dr Cumin, and the name of certain recipients, which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
3 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>Superfunds' antisemitic bias in divestment from Israeli banks</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender, and the contact details of certain recipients, which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
4 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>Divestment from Israel</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name of the sender which is withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
4 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>You</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name of the sender which is withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
4 March 2021	Email from a member of the public (Ron Danko 2) <i>listen and learn the truth GO BDS CHINA you COWARDS</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and certain recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
4 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>The NZSF Wannsee Conference</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
4 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>The New Zealand Superannuation Fund's Misguided Decision to Divest from Israel</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
4 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>Privacy Complaints or Issues</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
5 March 2021	Email from a member of the public to the Chair of the Guardians: <i>New Zealand Superfund to divest from Israeli bank stocks</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
5 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>Divestment</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)

DATE	DETAILS	DECISION
5 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>New Zealand embraces BDS, divests government fund from Israeli banks</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and certain recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
5 March 2021	Email from Pastor Nigel Woodley, Flaxmere Christian Fellowship <i>Please reconsider</i>	Released in full other than contact details for Pastor Woodley which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
6 March 2021	LinkedIn Message to CEO Matt Whineray <i>Shame on YOU!!</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name of the sender which is withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
7 March 2021	Email from member of the public <i>Bad Decision</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
8 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>A very bad move</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
8 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>Bad decision you have made to withdrawal</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
8 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>Pathfinder Asset Management – Green Party</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and certain recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
9 March 2021	Email from a member of the public I disapproved of your decision	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
10 March 2021	Email from members of the public to the Board of the Guardians: <i>Divesting funds from Israeli Banks</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and certain recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
10 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>I do not agree</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
10 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>Please reconsider</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
18 March 2021	Letter from the New Zealand Jewish Council	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)

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21 March 2021	Email from a member of the public <i>So you boycott Israel</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
24 March 2021	Letter from Dr David Cumin to Guardians Chair Catherine Savage <i>Decision to divestment from Israeli banks</i>	Released in full other than contact details for Dr Cumin which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
31 March 2021	Email from members of the public <i>Divesting funds from Israeli banks</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
31 March 2021 (received via post 7 April 2021)	Letter from Pastor Nigel Woodley, Flaxmere Christian Fellowship	Released in full other than contact details for Pastor Woodley which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
6 April 2021	Email from member of the public <i>Absolute scumbags</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
15 April 2021	Email from member of the public to Catherine Etheredge <i>Please reconsider the bias decision below</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and contact details of the recipient which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
15 April 2021	Email from member of the public to Catherine Etheredge <i>INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and certain recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
16 April 2021	Email exchange accompanying letter from Pastor Nigel Woodley, Flaxmere Christian Fellowship and Guardians employee	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
16 April 2021	Letter attached to email from Pastor Nigel Woodley, Flaxmere Christian Fellowship	Released in full other than in respect of the contact details of the sender which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
19 April 2021	Letter from Guardians CEO Matt Whineray to Dr David Cumin in response to the above email: <i>MW to DCumin Israeli bank exclusion response March 2021</i>	Released in full other than contact details for Dr Cumin which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
19 April 2021	Email exchange accompanying letter from Guardians CEO Matt Whineray to Pastor Nigel Woodley, Flaxmere Christian Fellowship	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and the recipient, which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)

DATE	DETAILS	DECISION
	<i>RE: Letter to Board from Nigel Woodley re. Israeli divestment</i>	
19 April 2021	Letter from Guardians CEO Matt Whineray to the President of the New Zealand Jewish Council Bank Exclusions	Released in full other than the name and contact details of the individual recipient, which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
19 April 2021	Letter from Guardians CEO Matt Whineray to Pastor Nigel Woodley, Flaxmere Christian Fellowship	Released in full other than contact details for Pastor Woodley which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
22 April 2021	Letter from member of the public to the Head of Communications at the Guardians <i>Divesting of Israeli banks</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender, and the contact details of the recipient, which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
23 April 2021	Email exchange between a member of the public and Catherine Etheredge <i>RE: Decision re Withdrawal</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender, and the contact details of the recipient, which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
23 April 2021	Email exchange between a member of the public and Catherine Etheredge <i>Re: The New Zealand Superannuation Fund's Misguided Decision to Divest From Israel</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and certain recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
23 April 2021	Email from member of the public <i>Decision to divest from Israeli banks</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the name and contact details of the sender and certain recipients which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)
7 May 2021	Letter from Matt Whineray to Dr David Cumin, Israel Institute <i>Company Exclusions – Correspondence with Managers</i>	Released in full other than in respect of the contact details of the recipient which are withheld based on Section 9(2)(a)

ENDS