

Reply 3098 (2022) has been answered

Portfolio: Foreign Affairs (Hon Nanaia Mahuta)

Question: Did the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade supply her with background information on Charlotte Bellis, in particular any consular assistance offered to her, if so, on what date and at what time, and why?

Reply: On 31 January 2022 at 12.55 pm the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) provided my Office with a note regarding MFAT's engagement with Charlotte Bellis and wider consular issues related to Afghanistan raised by media coverage of Bellis's case. The note was provided, in line with established 'no surprises' conventions, because Ms Bellis's situation had received extensive media attention, and it was expected that I would receive requests for comment about MFAT's involvement. Following established practice, the note identified all personal information as 'not for public comment'.

[3098 \(2022\)](#)

Reply 3099 (2022) has been answered

Portfolio: Foreign Affairs (Hon Nanaia Mahuta)

Question: Did she ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for background information on Charlotte Bellis, if so, on what date and at what time, and why?

Reply: On the morning of 31 January 2022 my Office discussed the media reporting of the Charlotte Bellis case with MFAT officials and noted that Ms Bellis's situation had received significant media attention, and that I was likely to receive requests for comment about the Ministry's involvement.

[3099 \(2022\)](#)

Reply 3100 (2022) has been answered

Portfolio: Foreign Affairs (Hon Nanaia Mahuta)

Question: Has she seen the comments by Hon Chris Hipkins regarding Ms Charlotte Bellis, "I also understand she was offered New Zealand consular assistance twice since she returned to Afghanistan in early December but has not responded. Again, I encourage her to take up any offers of assistance", and did the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade provide Mr Hipkins with the information that allowed him to make this statement?

Reply: I have seen those comments. In accordance with established protocols, MFAT did not provide information directly to the Minister for COVID-19 Response. Information received by my Office, being the MFAT briefing note and media lines on consular issues related to Afghanistan, were passed to the Office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response. The media lines provided followed established practice in noting that "for privacy reasons, we do not disclose details regarding individual cases."

[3100 \(2022\)](#)

Reply 3101 (2022) has been answered

Portfolio: Foreign Affairs (Hon Nanaia Mahuta)

Question: Has she seen the comments by Hon Chris Hipkins regarding Ms Charlotte Bellis, "I also understand she was offered New Zealand consular assistance twice since she returned to Afghanistan in early December but has not responded. Again, I encourage her to take up any offers of assistance", and did she provide Mr Hipkins with the information that allowed him to make this statement?

Reply: I have seen those comments. Information received by my Office relating to this matter was passed to the Office of the Minister for COVID-19 Response. I did not personally provide information to Minister Hipkins about Charlotte Bellis's case.

[3101 \(2022\)](#)