

**Subject:** OIA 2025/22 – Meaning of ‘National Interest Test’

**Date:** Thursday, 13 November 2025 at 1:41:50 PM New Zealand Daylight Time

**From:** McGuinness Institute OIAs

**To:** enquiries@mfat.govt.nz

**CC:** Wendy McGuinness, [REDACTED]

Kia ora,

## **OIA 2025/22 – Meaning of ‘National Interest Test’**

The Institute is in the process of preparing a third edition of COVID-19 Nation Dates. As part of our research into New Zealand’s position on the WHO Pandemic Treaty, we came across the term ‘National Interest Test’ (said by Foreign Minister RT Hon Winston Peters [here](#)).

Can you please answer the following questions:

Q1: Is a ‘National Interest Test’ a type of formal test undertaken by the New Zealand Government? If yes, please provide more detail on what the test is and when it has been applied in the past?

Note: We are aware of the term being used in respect of the upcoming bill that relates to overseas investment (see [here](#)), but could not find any other mention in broader public policy.

Q2: Please describe what this would entail for the Treaty, in particular:

- a. Who is responsible for conducting this test of the Treaty,
- b. When is the test expected to be completed against the Treaty,
- c. What characteristics/principles/experts will be consulted on this test?
- d. Whether the public will be consulted on the test?
- e. Whether the results of the National Interest Test would be made public when finalised?

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or points of clarification.

Ngā mihi,

Wendy

PS. As you may have noticed the Institute has sent two separate OIAs to MFAT today. Our understanding is that the questions would be sent to different MFAT teams, and thus it would be easier to treat it as two separate OIAs.

**Wendy McGuinness**

Chief Executive

## **McGuinness Institute Te Hononga Waka**

Level 1A, 15 Allen Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 24-222 Wellington 6142

[+64 4 499 8888](tel:+6444998888) | [www.mcguinnessinstitute.org](http://www.mcguinnessinstitute.org)

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