

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister of Local Government

Associate Minister for Māori Development



11 October 2022

Harold

fyi-request-20096-ccc1157f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Harold

Thank you for your email of 1 August 2022 which was transferred to my office on 29 August 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I would like to make a request for copies of the following briefings received by the minister in his role as Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control:

- 1) 7/12/2020 Approval for Foreign Military Aircraft to Land in New Zealand in 2021*
- 4) 12/02/2021 Saudi Arabia: Export of Controlled Items*
- 5) 16/02/2021 Proposed overflight by US Air Force B-52 aircraft*
- 6) 16/02/2021 The Process for Considering Requests for Entry of Foreign Warships into New Zealand Internal Waters*
- 7) 15/03/2021 Air New Zealand: Control and Export Status of US Navy Engines*
- 8) 21/06/2021 Operation Burnham: National Detention Policy*
- 15) Finally, in response to Written Parliamentary Question 43291 (2021): "What reports, briefings, memos, aides-memoire, notes or written advice, if any, has the Minister received about nuclear-armed submarines?" The minister replied "None to date, but I understand briefing is under preparation" (as at 23 September 2021). I would like to request a copy of the briefing referred to here.*

On 23 September 2022, we extended the timeframes for responding to your request by 10 working days. Thank you for your patience while we processed the request.

Attached are the documents relevant to your request. Some portions of the documents are withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(h): to maintain legal professional privilege.

Document 6, '16/02/2021 The Process for Considering Requests for Entry of Foreign Warships into New Zealand Internal Waters' is withheld in full under section 6(a) of the OIA, to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

I am refusing your request for Document 4 “12/02/2021 Saudi Arabia: Export of Controlled Items” under Section 18(e) of the OIA, because the document requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. This was an administrative reporting error.

I am refusing your request for Document 8 “21/06/2021 Operation Burnham: National Detention Policy” under section 18(d) of the OIA, because the information will soon be publicly available and will be published at the following link: [Media and resources | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(mfat.govt.nz\)](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/).

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. C. Mahuta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minita Take Aorere / Minister of Foreign Affairs