

20 June 2022

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Scott

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Tēnā koe Scott

I refer to your email of 13 May 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

Under the NZ Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act 1987 the Prime Minister can only grant approval to the visit of a foreign warship or aircraft when they are satisfied that the ship is not carrying any nuclear weapons or uses nuclear propulsion.

I understand that MFAT is the agency responsible for creating submissions to advise Prime Ministers when they come to make these decisions.

I would like to request copies of the submissions prepared for the Prime Minister by MFAT for their approval of the following eight visits of foreign warships to New Zealand:

ONE: Indian Navy INS Tabar, July 2006

TWO: Indian Navy INS Sumitra, November 2016

THREE: United States Navy USS Sampson, November 2016

FOUR: People's Liberation Army Navy CNS Yancheng, November 2016

FIVE: People's Liberation Army Navy CNS Hengyang, CNS Yulin and CNS Honghu, June 2017

SIX: People's Liberation Army Navy CNS Qi Jiguang, October 2019

SEVEN: Royal Canadian Navy HMCS Calgary, August 2021

EIGHT: United States Navy USS Howard, November 2021

And MFAT's submission for the Prime Minister's approval of this visit of a foreign military aircraft:

People's Liberation Army Air Force Ilyushin IL-76, touched down 9 or 10 June 2018, in New Zealand participating in NZDF exercise Skytrain18

The information relevant to your request is attached. We have withheld some information 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; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

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

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. 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, nā



Julie-Anne Lee
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade