

18 April 2024

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OIA 29238

Tēnā koe N. S. Hudson

I refer to your email of 19 March 2024 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I am writing to make a request under the Official Information Act 1982 for information related to any communications, agreements, or collaborations between the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and the United States military or affiliated agencies concerning the recent document titled "Joint-Chiefs-UAP-Directive-May-2023 [made available through a FOI request in the USA by a Douglas Johnson, dropbox link below]". Specifically, I seek clarification on the following points:

Has MFAT received the document titled "Joint-Chiefs-UAP-Directive-May-2023" [made available through a FOI request in the USA by a Douglas Johnson, dropbox link below] from the United States military or any affiliated agencies? If not, please answer the following:

1.1. Has MFAT been made aware of the existence of this document through any communication or correspondence with the United States or any other foreign entity?

1.2. If there is a reference to the document in any communication to MFAT, please provide details of the communication, including the sender, recipient, date, and content referencing the document.

Are there any formal agreements or arrangements between MFAT and US military agencies operating in New Zealand pertaining to the exchange of information, intelligence, or collaboration on matters related to UAP or similar phenomena?


If there have been any sightings, engagements, or retrievals related to UAP or similar phenomena involving MFAT and US military agencies in New Zealand, please provide details of such incidents.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has proactively released a response related to UAPs. The PDF of this response can be accessed here: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/OIA/OIA-2024/OIA-29210-UAP-26-March-2024.pdf>

Accordingly, we are refusing your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade