



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2023-4763

7 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 24 June 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

Documentation of historical (2010 to present day) and ongoing efforts relating to any unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP, UFO, USO) research, data or programmes, and any related Foreign Materials Program. This information may be held within the NZ Defence Technology Agency (DTA), its Advisory Board or as part of another group. This does not need to include information found publicly online. It may be any media (written, audio or visual) and may include: official documents, science and technology research, photos, informal communications (letters, emails, transcripts, minutes of meetings etc). I expect it may include complete unclassified documents as well as redacted and partial documents.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is not undertaking any research or programmes, or generating data, relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena, unidentified aerial phenomena or sightings. This aspect of your request is therefore declined in accordance with section 18(e) of the OIA.

In 2010 the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) released to public libraries fifteen volumes containing all accumulated correspondence then held relating to reports of unidentified aerial phenomenon or sightings (UAS) / unidentified flying objects (UFO) 1952 to 2009 inclusive, suitably redacted to protect individual privacy. Copies of this information were provided to: the Dunedin Public Library; the Hamilton Public Library; the Marlborough District Libraries; the Alexander Turnbull Library; and Infofind (the Radio New Zealand library).

The NZDF has no role or responsibility relating to reports of UAS/UFO. It is standard practice that any such reports received by the NZDF are to be referred to the Civil Aviation Authority. The NZDF neither investigates nor maintains records relating to UAS/UFO sightings.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF