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OIA-2023-4800

3 ( August 2023

Andrew Arkins

[fyi-request-23930-cd55a67d@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-23930-cd55a67d@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Andrew Arkins

I refer to your email of 23 August 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *access to any documents, reports, or records that specifically pertain to UAP, UFO and USO phenomena within the NZDF's purview.*

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 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 Infobind (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](http://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.

Yours sincerely

**AJ WOODS**

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF