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OIA-2024-4925

14 March 2024

Lee Jared

fyi-request-25737-44c5aa3b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Lee Jared,

I refer to your email of 14 February 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information about:

Referral Process for UAP/UFO Reports: Request information regarding the New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) protocols, procedures, or guidelines for handling and referring reports of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) or Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) to the Civil Aviation Authority or other relevant agencies. This should include details on how reports are received, assessed, and forwarded to appropriate authorities for further investigation.

Communication with CAA Regarding UAP/UFO Reports: Request any correspondence, communications, or exchanges between the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regarding reports of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) or Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). This may include emails, memos, meeting minutes, or any other records that discuss collaborative efforts or information sharing related to UAP/UFO sightings.

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 (UAP), sightings (UAS), and unidentified flying objects (UFO) 1952 to 2009 inclusive. These were 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 Infocind (the Radio New Zealand library).

The NZDF has no current 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 (CAA). The NZDF neither investigates nor maintains records relating to UAS/UFO sightings. No referrals have been sent to the CAA by the NZDF since 2010.

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