



New Zealand
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OIA-2019-3564

18 July 2019

Mr James Kirk

fyi-request-10636-daf7377b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Kirk

I refer to your email of 29 June 2019 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), *any and all information, including civilian and military reports, reports to the Minister of Defence, and any and all information shared between other government agencies and the New Zealand Defence Force, including correspondence, held by the Defence Force relating to unidentified aircraft in New Zealand airspace since January 1 2015.*

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has no role or responsibility relating to reports of unidentified aerial aircraft or other objects. It has been standard practice for some years that any reports on unidentified aerial objects received by the NZDF would be forwarded to the Civil Aviation Authority. The NZDF neither maintains nor holds any relevant records.

Reports on unidentified aerial sightings received by the NZDF became very rare from around 1990. Even so, the NZDF still received regular inquiries about old reports. In 2010, therefore, the NZDF released fifteen volumes of all the material that had accumulated during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. This was done so that the NZDF could dispose of the original files.

Copies of the fifteen volumes 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).

To the best of my knowledge, the NZDF is not able to add anything to that material (that is, any information received during the period 1 January 2015 to the present), so I decline to meet your request under section 18(e) of the OIA.

Naturally, you retain a right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request.

Yours sincerely

A.J. WOODS
Air Commodore
Chief of Staff HQNZDF